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PROVINCE ELECTIONS

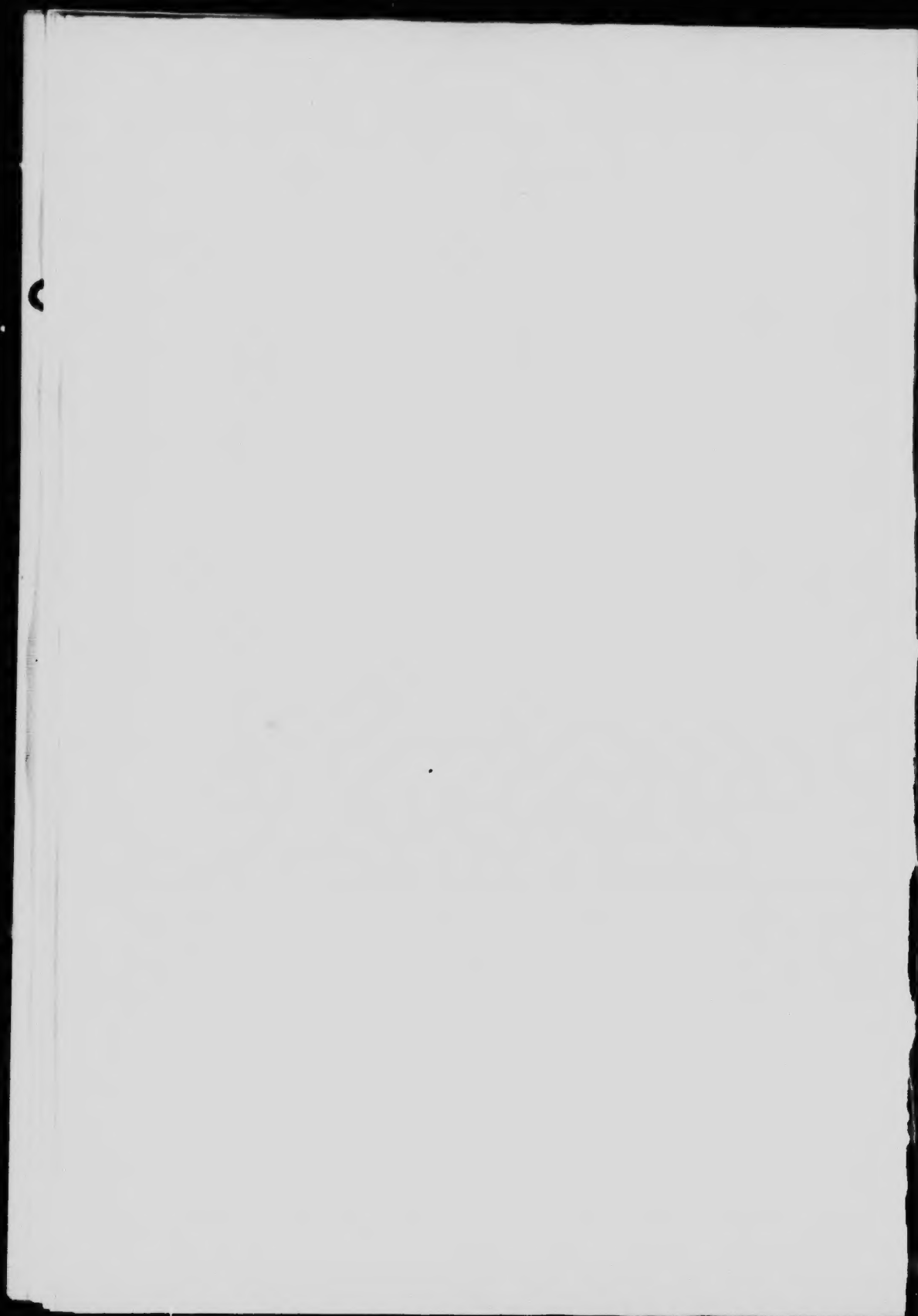
LIBERAL REGIMEN
1897-1908

ELEVEN YEARS of FINANCIAL IMPRO-
VEMENTS AND FRUITFUL
ADMINISTRATION

SURPLUSES REPLACE DEFICITS—THE DEBT REDUCED
—GRANTS TO PUBLIC INSTRUCTION, AGRICULTURE AND COLONIZATION
INCREASED

QUEBEC

1908



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PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS OF 1908

INTRODUCTORY.

The Quebec Legislature has just been dissolved. In a few weeks the electors of this Province will be called upon to choose the members who will represent them in the Legislative Assembly.

Those members, or rather the majority of them, will be absolute masters of our provincial destinies during the coming Legislature for, in order to govern, the Ministers must have their support. The vital question now before the electors is, therefore, the following:—"Is it preferable to keep the Gouin Ministry in power or to confide the administration of provincial affairs to a Cabinet with Mr. Pierre Evariste LeBlanc at its head?"

The Opposition agents will, no doubt, according to their custom, seek to deceive the people with the finest promises and most misleading statements. Unfortunately for them, we have seen them at work from 1891 to 1897 and they have not yet succeeded in erasing from the official documents the writings and statistics establishing their deceit and incapacity.

A workman is known by his work. Consequently we shall briefly recall how the Conservative leaders, from 1891 to

1897, broke all the promises they made and how the Liberal leaders have, since 1897, fulfilled all the engagements they undertook.

Figures not only govern the world, but also indicate how we are governed. We shall show, by figures taken from official sources—order, economy, equilibrium in our finances, useful reforms, well ordered progress and administrative ability succeeding to disorder, waste, deficits, inertia, stagnation and incapacity.

This will enable every one to judge of the real value of the two parties contending for power and, with full knowledge of the matter, to choose between the maintenance of the Gouin Government and the restoration of the regime of 1891-1897 which Mr. LeBlanc and his lieutenants have constantly praised and defended.

To our mind there can be no doubt as to this choice: on polling day every county in this Province will be sure to elect, with a crushing majority, the candidate who promises to support the Ministry whereof Hon. Lomer Gouin is the leader.

CONSERVATIVE REGIME

1891-1897

DE BOUCHERVILLE-TAILLON-FLYNN MINISTRIES

When, in December, 1891, Lieutenant-Governor Angers removed the Government then in power from office in the way which everybody remembers, he called Doctor deBoucherville to the bedside of the province.

Mr. de Boucherville's unbounded disinterestedness is as well known as his stern virtue. In fact, if, under his administration from 1874 to 1878, the flower of "Senecalism" took root and blossomed, on the other hand the fact of that worthy man simultaneously holding the two offices of Senator and Legislative Councillor for thirty years has not yet exhausted his great devotedness to the public weal.

In 1891, Mr. deBoucherville deigned, therefore, to sacrifice himself once more for the salvation of the Province and, on the 21st December, the Lieutenant-Governor swore in the following Cabinet :

Mr. C. E. B. deBoucherville, Prime Minister and President of the Executive Council ; Mr. Louis Beaubien, Commissioner of Agriculture ; Mr. T. C. Casgrain, Attorney-General ; Mr. J. S. Hall, Provincial Treasurer ; Mr. E. J. Flynn, Commissioner of Crown Lands ; Mr. G. A. Nantel, Commissioner of Public Works ; Mr. L. P. Pelletier, Provincial-Secretary ; Mr. L. O. Taillon, Minister without portfolio ; Mr. John McIntosh, Minister without portfolio.

Never before had the province been governed by a Ministry with so little homogeneity in its composition; but the bait of the loaves and fishes led the Ministers to consent to lay aside their ambitions and grudges and to swear to love one another with the tenderest affection. At least that is what we were told at the time by Mr. Taillon and the defunct "La Minerve," the Government organ:

"Thus, in order to succeed, we were the first to overlook the dissensions that may have existed for six years among certain factions of the grand party. We sacrificed self-love and legitimate ambitions. We forgot ourselves for the sake of our common country, shutting our eyes to our own wounds to see those of our country only." (Mr. Taillon's speech at the Montreal drill-hall, 26th December, 1891, reported in "La Minerve" of the 28th).

On the 28th December, 1891, "La Minerve" had the following in an editorial:

"Mr. Taillon could have had any portfolio he chose, had he expressed the wish. He preferred to make room for others to facilitate reconciliation, to strengthen all adhesions, in order to give the province the guarantee of a vigorous and stable administration."

Thus it was agreed that the past should be buried and that nothing should be thought of but the future of the Province.

This was an admirable thing to say, but no sooner was Mr. Chapleau appointed Lieutenant-Governor than Mr. deBoucherville forgot all about the salvation of the province and handed in his resignation as Prime Minister. He did not want to serve under a man like Mr. Chapleau. The "Gazette" admitted it on the 28th September, 1905, when it said:

"Mr. deBoucherville...found that he could not retain

the Premiership under the man who had been sent to Spencer-Wood as Lieutenant-Governor."

Therefore, on the 16th December, 1892, Mr. Taillon formed a Cabinet with his former colleagues of the deBoucherville Government and became President of the Executive Council.

There was not much quarreling, publicly, until February, 1895, when Mr. Hall, the Treasurer, made a noisy exit from the Cabinet on account of the conclusion of the famous French loan at 77 cents in the dollar. On the 28th February, 1895, Mr. Taillon became Treasurer and Messrs. Hackett and Morris were added to the Cabinet, the former as President of the Executive Council and the latter as Minister without portfolio.

On the 1st May, 1896, as Mr. Taillon had accepted a portfolio in the Tupper Government, the Lieutenant-Governor called on Mr. Nantel to form a Ministry, but the latter was unable to do so. He had been accepted as a colleague, it is true, but they refused to accept him as leader. The Lieutenant-Governor was then obliged to turn to Mr. Flynn. Accordingly, on the 12th May, 1896, the following Cabinet was sworn in:

Mr. E. J. Flynn, Prime Minister and Commissioner of Public Works; Mr. L. Beaubien, Commissioner of Agriculture; Mr. G. A. Nantel, Commissioner of Crown Lands; Mr. L. P. Pelletier, Attorney-General; Mr. Thomas Chapais, President of the Executive Council; Mr. M. F. Hackett, Provincial Secretary; Mr. A. W. Atwater, Provincial Treasurer.

When this Ministry was formed, so much attention was devoted to the salvation of the Province that Mr. T. C. Casgrain was overlooked in the distribution of portfolios. For-

unately, Mr. Casgrain, as a prudent man, had caused himself to be voted a yearly salary of \$2,000.00 as Chairman of the Commission for the revision of the Code of Procedure, in case he might cease to form part of the Government, and he was thus enabled from this source to continue to slake his thirst.

On the 1st of January, 1897, when the Department of Colonization and Mines was established, Mr. Thomas Champs took the direction of that department.

That the members of the Flynn Government did not get on well together is a matter of public notoriety. One of them, Mr. Nantel, related in his newspaper, "La Nation", how things went on in the Cabinet. We will let him speak for himself :

"Everybody must remember the state of affairs that prevailed in the Flynn Cabinet in 1897, before, during and after the session. Everybody must have read in the press at the time all the signs that had become public of the *disensions that reigned continually*. And can anybody believe that Mr. Flynn did not complain bitterly of this to the Governor?

"What could be expected from a Government whose Attorney-General (Mr. Pelletier) had but one object in view : to supplant the Prime Minister? What could be expected from *that other Minister* (Mr. Beaubien) who claimed that he should run the whole Montreal district, without holding a single seat in the House from it? And again what could be expected, in the interest of cohesion, from that Minister (Mr. Nantel,) who is not accustomed to let his toes be trod upon and who never hesitates to defend himself when attacked?

"No, it was hardly possible that the members of the Flynn Cabinet could live in peace together from the moment it was formed in May, 1895. There was an insurmountable incompatibility of temper between several of them.

And, after the session of 1896-97, especially with regard to the date of the elections, all harmony had completely van-

ished. *Beaten or not beaten, the Cabinet had to be changed or to disappear.* ("La Nation", 14th December 1901.)

The de Boucherville, Taillon and Flynn Ministries not only resembled one another in their lack of cohesion, but further, they formed in truth but one. Mr. Flynn himself admitted this in the speech, announcing his programme, which he delivered at St. Jean Port Joli, on the 6th September, 1896 :

"As to the late Government, Messrs. Pelletier and Chapais and myself are responsible, jointly and severally responsible, for it from a party standpoint, since we have government by party. Our ministerial responsibility is connected with the late Government; *we are bound to answer for the past two Administrations.* In a word, we have been in power for four years and a half." (Page 4, of a pamphlet published by "L'Imprimerie Générale, Quebec.)

The Flynn Government, like the de Boucherville and Taillon Governments, was thus obliged to carry out the promises the latter had made to the electorate.

We shall now see what those promises were :

PROMISES MADE BY THE CONSERVATIVES

Mr. Taillon, the leader of the Government, said to the Legislative Assembly on the 28th April, 1892 :

"The Government will be careful, above all, to fulfil the promises it has made to the electorate. The pledge given to the electors on the hustings was sincerely given and will be faithfully kept.

"But we are more or less solemnly pledged, according to circumstances, *by speeches on the hustings, by writings, by articles laid down in the programme we had while in Opposition.* All those pledges, whatever they may be, will be fulfilled. (Debates of the Legislature, p. 20.)

Now what were those pledges?

In a speech outlining his programme, delivered at Montreal on the 29th April, 1890, Mr. Taillon, then leader of the Opposition, said :

"Here are the chief reforms the Opposition intend to carry out, if power be confided to it :

"1. To enact that, in future, the Government *shall not effect any permanent loan without the approval of the people signified by a plebiscite.*

"2. *To diminish the expenditure by several hundred thousand dollars per annum ;*

"3. To enact that the Government shall not, in future, lay hands on trust funds, as the Mercier Government did ;

"4. To forbid, by statute, the use of letters of credit ;

"5. *To fix, by statute, the amount of temporary loans that can be contracted during a Parliament.*

(*La Minerve*, 30th April, 1890.)

And Mr. Taillon added :

"*We must contract no more loans.*

"We could easily to-day *reduce the expenditure by \$500,000.00 in a few years.*"

(*La Minerve*, 30th April, 1890.)

Such were the pledges given by the Conservative leader when in Opposition.

Let us now see what promises they gave after the 21st December, 1891.

On the 26th December, 1891, Mr. T. C. Casgrain said at the meeting held in the Montreal drill-hall :

"*We shall succeed in restoring the equilibrium in the finances, and to do this we shall not impose fresh burdens on the people.*"

(*Courrier du Canada*, 28th December, 1891.)

In a letter published in *Le Journal* of Montreal, on the 11th December, 1901, Mr. T. C. Casgrain wrote the following over his own signature :

"At a large meeting held several months before the de Boucherville banquet, the Treasurer for the time being stated that, in his opinion, from the information he had been able to gather, we could govern without imposing fresh taxes."

At the de Boucherville banquet in the Windsor Hotel, on the 29th March, 1892, Mr. Taillon said:

"Our first care should therefore be devoted to *restoring equilibrium in the finances*

"People have been kind enough to suggest to us the means of doing so. *We have been advised to accustom the people to direct taxation. I differ in opinion from those who give such advice.* It is contrary to the idea of the Fathers of Confederation. I should fear that the people would get accustomed too soon and that the abundance of receipts would bring about a recurrence of the dangers wherewith we were threatened."

(*La Minerve*, 30th March, 1892.)

In his speech outlining his programme, delivered at St. Jean Port Joli, Mr. Flynn said:

"On the 21st December, 1891, the Conservative Government was called upon to administer the affairs of the Province. Three months later, the people ratified the change by a considerable majority and, at the same time, entrusted us with the duty of *restoring equilibrium in the finances*, while striving to secure general prosperity." (Page 7 of the pamphlet above cited.)

On the 20th May, 1892, Mr. Hall, the Treasurer, said to the Legislative Assembly in the course of his Budget Speech:

"There is but one course open and that is to bring about equilibrium between our receipts and expenditure and to avoid new obligations.....My predecessor got over all his difficulties by making loans and using trust funds, but this we have now to stop, if for no other reason than that the Province should not resort to further borrowing." (Page 39.)

On the 21st December, 1894, Mr. Taillon, Prime Minister and Treasurer, said to the Legislative Assembly, in the course of his Budget Speech :

" I am of opinion tha the Government should not for a long time undertake any works or grant any subsidies for railways which will necessitate *other loans* than that voted in 1890." (Page 23).

In the following year, Mr. Taillon again returned to the subject.

" What else must be done to restore equilibrium in the finances?

" *Not undertake, without urgent necessity, any public works whose cost cannot be paid out of ordinary revenue ;*

" *Not grant fresh subsidies to railway undertakings ;*

" *Not revive lapsed subsidies and refuse, in so far as the public interest will really permit of it, to transfer subsidies already voted from one undertaking to another.*

" The policy the Government is compelled to follow means not only that it must *avoid increasing the public debt* and must reduce it whenever it has an opportunity, but it means further that it must continue *to practise the strictest economy everywhere*.....

" *If vacancies occur in the public service, we will fill them only when necessary.* (Budget Speech of 26th November, 1895, page 31.)"

From all the above statements it results, therefore, that the deBoucherville, Taillon and Flynn Governments were :

1. Not to increase the debt ;
2. Not to impose fresh taxes ;
3. Not to contract loans ;
4. To have it enacted that no permanent loan could be contracted without the approval of the people expressed by a plebiscite ;

5. To fix, by statute, the amount of the temporary loans that could be contracted during a Parliament;

6. To forbid, by law, the use of letters of credit;

7. To have it enacted that the Government should not use trust funds;

8. To restore equilibrium in the finances;

9. To practise economy;

10. To reduce the expenditure of 1890 by \$500,000.00 in a few years;

11. To fill vacancies occurring in the public service only when necessary;

12. To grant no fresh subsidies to railway undertakings; to revive no lapsed subsidies and to refuse to transfer subsidies already voted from one undertaking to another.

BROKEN PROMISES

All those fine promises were broken, shamefully broken. The Conservative leaders seem truly to have striven to do the exact opposite to what they had promised.

THE CONSERVATIVES INCREASE THE DEBT

They had promised to not increase the public debt and even to reduce it. Now, they increased it considerably as we shall show by an official statement prepared by the officers of the Treasury Department.

The Mercier Ministry was dismissed on the 16th December, 1891.

The assets and liabilities of the Province on the 17th

December, 1891, according to the aforesaid official statement, were as follows :

Liabilities

Funded debt.....	\$25,209,873 33
Temporary loans.....	150,000 00
Trust deposits.....	258 243 25
Railway company guarantee deposits....	1,860,765 64
Outstanding warrants.....	149,600 21
Balance due on cost of construction of Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa and Occidental Rail- way.....	85,680 12
Loss on Exchange Bank deposit.....	25,500 00
Quebec Court House bonds..	200,000 00
Total liabilities....	<u>\$27,939,662 55</u>

Assets

Price of sale of Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa and Occidental Railway....	7,600,000 00
Railway grants under Dominion Act 47 Vic- torio, chapter 8..	2,394,000 00
Cash in banks.....	893,491 27
Cost of Jacques-Cartier Normal School..	138,348 02
Claim against Hon. T. McGreevy....	100,000 00
Advances to various parties.....	145,352 69
Quebec Court House tax.....	200,000 00
Total assets....	<u>\$11,471,191 98</u>

Let us recapitulate :

Total liabilities on 17th December, 1891....\$27,939,662 55

Total assets on 17th December, 1891.... .. 11,471,191 98

Excess of liabilities over assets on 17th December, 1891.... ..\$16,468,470 57

These figures correspond exactly to those printed on page 509 of the Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly for the session of 1908.

Thus the total debt of the Province was \$16,468,470 57 when the Mercier Government was removed from office.

Let us now see, always according to the same official statement, the figures of the assets and liabilities of the Province on the 26th May, 1897, when the Flynn Government gave up office.

Liabilities

Funded debt.... ..	\$34,225,747 42
Trust deposits.... ..	281,468 26
Railway company guarantee deposits.....	595,227 53
Outstanding warrants.... ..	21,955 71
Balance due on cost of construction of Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa and Occidental Railway	\$ 25,000.00
Loss on Exchange Bank Deposit.... ..	25,218 75
Quebec Court House bonds.... ..	200,000 00
Total Liabilities.... ..	<u>\$35,374,617 67</u>

Assets

Price of sale of Quebec, Montreal Ottawa and Occidental Railway	\$ 7,600,000.00
Railway grants under Dominion Act 47 Victoria, chapter 8.... ..	2,394,000 00

Cash in banks.....	789,828 54
Cost of Jacques-Cartier Normal School.....	6,153 60
Claim against Hon. T. McGreevy.....	100,000 00
Advances to various parties.....	161,832 89
Quebec Court House tax.....	200,000 00
Total assets.....	<u>\$11,251,315 03</u>

Let us recapitulate :

Total liabilities on 26th May, 1897..	\$35,374,617 67
Total assets on 26th May, 1897.....	<u>11,251,315 03</u>
Excess of liabilities over assets on 26th May, 1897.....	<u>\$24,123,302 64</u>

These figures correspond exactly to those printed on page 509 of the Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly for the session of 1908.

Under the Conservative regime, from 1891 to 1897, the liabilities, the total debt of the province, had thus grown from \$16,468,470.57 to \$24,123,302.64. In other words, the deBoucherville, Taillon and Flynn Governments increased the public debt by \$7,654,832.07.

STATEMENT OF LIABILITIES PREPARED BY MR. HALL

The statement we have given of the liabilities of the Province on the 17th December, 1891, does not correspond to that inserted by Mr. Hall in his Budget Speech delivered in May, 1892. (Pages 16 and 17 of the Statements).

But we repeat that our statements has been prepared by the officers of the Treasury Department and is based on the Public Accounts. That of Mr Hall, on the contrary, is not

official. It was prepared to serve the needs of the Conservative cause, that is to say, to make the people believe that the province was on the verge of bankruptcy, and for that reason considerable amounts were inserted which were not due and which would never become due.

Thus we find the following item :

Estimated deficiency of ordinary revenue to meet ordinary expenditure between 17th December, 1891, and 30th June, 1892..... \$496,723 67

In truth, this is a curious way of establishing what was due on the 17th December, 1891. The expected deficit for six months ahead is taken into account. But, while Mr. Hall was about it, why did he not put in the liabilities the deficits of the five following years? This would have been equally correct.

And further on :

Special expenditure authorized by the act 54 Victoria, chapter 1.
Schedule B.....\$838,555 00
Less paid to 17th December, 1891 128,208 55
————— \$710,346 45

Thus, under the pretext that the Government was authorized to spend \$710,346.45 more for certain purposes during the current year, Mr. Hall carries \$710,346.45 to liabilities. That amount was not due, it might or might not be spent, but, to Mr. Hall, it was a debt.

Mr. Hall expressly said in statement No. 4, annexed to his Budget Speech of the 20th May, 1892, that \$523,971.65 of the \$710,346.45 would not be expended; nevertheless that amount of \$710,346.45 is given in the liabilities. And in only a portion of it was expended as appears on page 463

of the Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly for the session of 1906.

"By Mr. Mercier—What amount of the special expenditure of \$888,555.00 authorized by the act 54 Victoria, chapter 1, schedule B, was paid between the 17th December, 1891, and 30th June, 1892?

"Answer by Honorable Mr. Weir:—\$191,832.22."

And, further on:

"Additional amounts estimated to be required for the following public works:

Parliament Buildings, balance contract for statues....	\$ 16,000 00
Parliament Buildings, to complete wall enclosing grounds....	16,000 00
Montreal Court-House, to complete contract..	458,500 00
McGill Normal School, for furniture delivered.	6,580 00
Jacques Cartier Normal School, for furniture delivered....	111,380 62
Iron bridges, under engagement....	72,000 00
	\$675,440 62"

It would be necessary, to have works done, to purchase furniture, etc., etc. Therefore, according to Mr. Hall, the cost of such works and furniture, etc., was a debt.

On the 5th December, 1893, in his Budget Speech, Mr. Hall, nevertheless, said:

"It will be noticed that I have struck out from the liabilities the amounts *which may be required* for construction of the Montreal Court House, Parliament Buildings and Iron Bridges, as we are at present paying these out of ordinary revenue." (Page 15).

What difference could this make?

If the amounts considered necessary for the construction of public buildings constituted a debt in 1891, they were equally one in 1893. If they were not a debt in 1893, neither were they one in 1891. There is no getting over this. A debt is a debt whether paid out of ordinary revenue or not.

Another item :

"Railway money subsidies, authorized, but not yet earned..\$3,147,910.90

Railway land subsidies converted into money, subsidies authorized but not yet earned, balance on first 35 cents per acre..... 1,144,325.90

Railway land subsidies which may be converted into money subsidies, 5,028,000 acres at 70c. per acre: \$3,519,600.00
first 35c. per acre payable as work is done..... 1,759,800.00

—————\$6,052,036.89"

And, at once, Mr. Hall added \$6,052,036.89 to liabilities. Those subsidies were not due, were not earned, perhaps they never would be; that did not matter; the liabilities had to be swelled. Now does one know what portion of that amount of \$6,052,036.89 of subsidies was not earned within the required delays and consequently lapsed? \$2,870,449.23, (page 500 of the Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly for the session of 1908).

Such a method of keeping accounts was so absurd that Mr. Hall himself denounced it in his Budget Speech of the 5th December, 1893:

"It has been the practice of my predecessors to put in the liabilities all the amounts voted by statute for railway subsidies, whether lapsed or not. It is proposed in future to put in subsidies that are possible to be earned. I should say also that even some of those included may not be earned and none are due until earned." (Page 18.)

If we strike from Mr. Hall's statement those amounts of \$496,723.67 ; \$710,846.45 ; \$675,460.62 and \$6,052,036.89, which shou'd not be in it, the difference will correspond to the figures of the official statement we have given.

THE FLOATING DEBT OF THIRTEEN MILLIONS

"But", the Conservatives say, when they are reproached with having increased the public debt, "the Mercier Government had left us a legacy of a floating debt of 13 millions and we paid it without even exceeding the power of borrowing ten millions which it had obtained in 1890." That is what Mr. Chapais claimed at St. Gervais on the 8th September, 1907, and that is what is repeated in the whole Conservative press and at all Conservative meetings.

We will deal with the question of loans later on. For the moment, let us devote our attention to the floating debt of 13 millions said to have been left by the Mercier Government.

We have no hesitation in asserting that that floating debt of 13 millions is nothing but a fable; it has never existed elsewhere than in the imagination of Conservative speech-makers and journalists.

A man whose words Mr. Chapais and those of his genus should respect since he has been their leader, a man who should know something about accounts since he was Provincial Treasurer in 1895 and 1896, Mr. Taillon, said to the Legislative Assembly in his Budget Speech of the 26th November, 1895 :

" When the Hon. Mr. deBoucherville took over the administration of the affairs of the province in December, 1891, the consolidated debt amounted to over twenty-five millions of dollars, including the loan of four millions negotiated in France in 1891 by our predecessors, for a term of two years; the floating debt, apart from certain petitions of right and other claims, aggregated over eight millions of dollars " (Budget Speech of 26th November, 1895, page 22.)

Eight millions! This is already far from thirteen millions!

But Mr. Taillon himself was mistaken. The floating debt was not even eight millions.

The only items of the public debt on the 17th December 1891, (see the statement we have given above) which can be classed under the head of " floating debt " are the following :

Temporary loans.....	\$ 150,000 00
Trust deposits.....	258,243 25
Railway Company Guarantee Deposits.....	1,860,765 61
Outstanding warrants.....	149,600 21
Balance due on cost of construction of Q. M.	
O. & O. Railway.....	85,680 12
Loss on Exchange Bank deposit.....	25,500 00
Balance.....	\$2,529,789 22

It is proper to note that those debts had not all been contracted by the Mercier Government and that, on the other hand, the province had \$893,491.27 in the banks, and could moreover realize the following amounts any day :

Cost of Jacques Cartier Normal School.....	\$ 138,348 02
Advances to various parties.....	145,352 69
	\$283,700 71

If to this total sum of....	\$283,700 71
We add the amount in the banks, say.....	898,491 27

It will be found that the province had....	\$1,177,191 08
To meet a floating debt of.....	2,529,789 22

The difference thus being only....	\$1,352,597 24
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As may be seen, that floating debt of thirteen millions, of which the Conservatives are always speaking, is more than floating. The real figures have merely been multiplied by ten.

SUMS PAID TO RAILWAY COMPANIES OR SPENT FOR PUBLIC WORKS

To explain the increase in the public debt under their regime, the Conservatives will, perhaps, say that they had to repay over a million to certain railway companies out of the guarantee deposits the latter had made; that they had to pay several millions in subsidies to railway undertakings; that they were obliged to spend considerable amounts for public works (buildings and iron bridges).

The truth is that the deBoucherville, Taillon and Flynn Governments reimbursed \$1,265,538.11 out of the railway company guarantee deposits, but, as may be seen, account is taken of such reimbursement in our statement of the liabilities on the 26th May, 1897.

They also paid \$4,626,901.62 in subsidies to railway companies. (See page 488 of the Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly for the session of 1908), but they themselves, by their own statutes, caused to be voted or revived, \$1,810,228.77 and also had made \$1,164,638.33, payable immediately. (Page 500 of the same Votes and Proceedings).

They further spent considerable amounts for the con-

struction of buildings and railways (\$1,363,579.80), but they are responsible for one-half of such expenditure, for Mr. Hall, in Statement No. 8 annexed to his Budget Speech of the 20th May, 1892, estimated the amount required to complete such works at \$675,460.62.

Moreover, it must not be forgotten that the Conservatives—in order to be able to pay certain railway subsidies that been voted and were about to become due and to provide for the payment of the amounts that were to be spent on certain public works then deemed necessary—imposed fresh taxes in 1892 and such taxes, as we will show, brought in \$2,306,991.15 during the Conservative regime.

To sum up, the de Boucherville, Taillon and Flynn Governments were, according to Mr. Hall, to spend \$675,460.62 for public works; they had to pay off about \$2,625,000.00 of subsidies voted by their predecessors and, to meet those obligations, they collected \$2,306,991.15. The debt, therefore, should have been increased by one million dollars only; whereas, we repeat, it was increased by \$7,654,832.07.

THE CONSERVATIVES IMPOSE FRESH TAXES

We have shown above that the Ministers of the deBoucherville Government, on coming into power, formally promised that they would impose no fresh taxes. Now, in the very first session of the Legislature elected under the auspices of the de Boucherville Government, the latter had acted passed imposing various taxes.

It had a tax enacted on all transfers of property.

It imposed succession duties.

It established licenses for manufactures and trade, thus taxing large and small merchants in cities and in the country.

It imposed taxes on certain persons and compelled advocates, physicians, surveyors, notaries, dentists, civil engineers, architects, public employees and officers to pay a certain amount into the provincial treasury yearly.

It re-imposed the tax, abolished by the Mercier Government, compelling municipalities to contribute one-half the expenses of the maintenance and care of the insane in the asylums of the Province.

It compelled municipalities to pay one-half the cost of the maintenance and care and the whole cost of conveying children sentenced to reformatory schools.

In like manner, it compelled municipalities to pay three-fourths of the cost of maintenance and care of children sent to industrial schools.

Those taxes produced an enormous revenue.

The following is a statement of the amounts derived from such taxes between the 1st July, 1892, and the 26th May, 1897. We take these figures from the answers given to a question by Mr. Tellier and to a question by Mr. Perreault, during the course of last session. (pages 461 575 and 576 of the Votes and Proceedings for 1908):

	1892-93	1893-94	1894-95	1895-96	1896 26th May 1897	Totals from 1st July 1892 to 26th May 1897
	\$ cts.	\$ cts.	\$ cts.	\$ cts.	\$ cts.	\$ cts.
Succession duties.....	40,313 59	149,823 46	162,535 50	163,365 33	149,004 95	665,042 83
Taxes on transfers of property..	292,001 65	246,860 50	185,870 70	184,254 50	69,050 10	978,037 45
Manufacturing and trading li- censes.....	145,608 87	106,428 45	121,932 96	79,728 52	9,625 30	463,324 10
Taxes on certain persons.....	15,667 64	15,293 70	17,059 29	17,507 67	3,409 84	68,938 14
Maintenance of the insane.....	26,537 87	19,363 15	21,848 28	35,083 69	7,647 09	110,480 08
Reformatory and Industrial Schools	77 64	2,289 06	5,688 51	12,366 76	746 58	21,168 55
Tota's.....	520,207 26	540,058 32	514,935 24	492,306 47	239,483 86	2,306,991 15

By means of these taxes the Conservatives thus took from the rate-payers in hard cash :

From 1st July, 1892, to 30th June, 1893....	\$ 520,207 26
" " 1893 " " 1894....	540,058 32
" " 1894 " " 1895....	514,935 24
" " 1895 " " 1896....	492,306 47
" " 1896 to 26th May, 1897....	239,483 86
Total.....	\$2,306,991 15

Thus was fulfilled the promise to govern without imposing fresh burdens on the people.

THE CONSERVATIVES BORROW

There was reason to hope that the deBoucherville, Tailon and Flynn Governments, with the increased revenue brought in by the new taxes, would be able to govern at least without borrowing. Moreover, they had formally pledged themselves to do so. Now, quite the contrary happened; their regime was marked by quite a profusion of loans.

This may be seen from the following extract from the Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly, session of 1908 (pages 462 and 463) :

" By Mr. Gauthier.—1. How many temporary loans were contracted from 1st July, 1892, to 30th June, 1897, and to what amount?.....

" Answer by Honorable Mr. Weir :

" 1. Thirty-four, \$5,480,000.00."

" By Mr. Gauthier.—How many loans on debentures were contracted from 1st July, 1892, to 30th June, 1897, and to what amount?"

" Answer by Honorable Mr. Weir :

" 1. Five.

" 2. \$16,736,770.33."

Thus, from the 1st July, 1892, to the 30th June, 1897, 34 temporary and 5 permanent loans were contracted for an aggregate amount of \$22,216,770.33, say 8 loans of over 4 millions per annum on an average. Truly that period was the golden age for brokers, for "shavers," as Mr. LeBlanc would say.

Everybody remembers how loudly the Conservatives cried out when, in 1890, the Mercier Government had itself authorized to borrow \$10,000,000 to meet the railway subsidies recently granted and certain special expenses mentioned in the act authorizing the loan. According to the Conservative press and speakers, during the electoral campaign of 1892, such legislation was scandalous and would be repealed if they were maintained in power.

Now, what did they do, once they were installed in office?

In 1891, Mr. Mercier had borrowed \$3,860,000.00 under the act of 1890. The Conservatives took advantage of that "scandalous" act, to borrow, not only the balance of the \$10,000,000.00, namely: \$6,140,000.00, but also \$1,270,309.00 in addition. And, to remove all doubt with respect to its right to thus exceed the authorized amount, the Tailen Government had a special act passed during the session of 1895.

The Conservatives borrowed and borrowed at ruinous rates, even at 77 cents in the dollar.

But they may, perhaps, say: "We borrowed to pay amounts due under previous loans."

As may be seen by the statements of liabilities we have given above on the 17th December, 1891, the province owed:

On permanent loans (funded debt).....	\$25,209,873 33
On temporary loans.....	150,000 00
Total.....	<u>\$25,359,873 33</u>

And on the 26th May, 1897, the province owed on permanent loans (funded debt).....	34,225,747 42
Increase.....	<u>\$ 8,865,874 09</u>

These figures show how the deBoucherville, Taillon and Flynn Governments kept the promise they had given to not borrow.

There is still more. Mr. Taillon, as we have recalled, had not only promised to not borrow, but had even promised to have an act passed forbidding the contracting of any permanent loan without the previous approval of the people and also to have an act passed limiting the amount of temporary loans that could be contracted during a Parliament. Now, those promises remained a dead letter like that he had given to have an act passed forbidding the use of letters of credit and of trust funds. The carrying out of those items of Mr. Taillon's programme would really have been too irksome for such governments of borrowers.

DEFICITS

If the Conservatives borrowed and imposed so many taxes, it was not only to pay the debts of their predecessors, for the public debt was greater on the 26th May, 1897, than on the 17th December, 1891; it was chiefly for the purpose of making up their own deficits.

They had promised to not impose fresh taxes and to proportion the expenditure to the then existing revenue; now, they imposed fresh taxes which brought in an additional revenue of nearly \$500,000.00 per annum and not

withstanding such increased receipts they always had deficits.

If we look at page 571 of the Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly for 1906, we shall find a question and answer that are very instructive :

“ By Mr. Tessier.—What were the *receipts and payments* for each of the fiscal years elapsed since the 1st July, 1867, not taking loans nor railway subsidies into account?

“ Answer by Honorable Mr. Weir :

Year ending	Receipts.	Payments.
30th June, 1893.....	\$4,467,278.21	\$4,492,106.21
do 1894..	4,320,427.22	4,550,629.50
do 1895..	4,343,971.65	4,506,623.31
do 1896..	4,358,858.81	4,415,208 52
do 1897..	3,923,238.70	5,288,469.33

These figures, it is needless to repeat, are supplied by the officers of the Treasury Department themselves. They are therefore official. If any one has a doubt of this, let him refer to page 36 of the Budget Speech delivered by Mr. Atwater on the 29th December, 1896. There will be found a statement confirming these data for the years 1893, 1894, 1895 and 1896.

Now if we calculate the difference between the receipts and payments, the following deficits will be found :

Year ending 30th June 1893.....	\$ 24,828 00
“ “ “ 1894.....	230,202 28
“ “ “ 1895.....	162,661 66
“ “ “ 1896.....	56,409 71
“ “ “ 1897.....	1,365,230 63

Total deficit for the 5 years.....	\$1,739,332 28
A yearly average	\$ 347,866 45

"But," the Conservatives may say, "those figures of the statement you cite contain the amounts that were paid for extraordinary public works and for the reimbursement of railway guarantee deposits." If you open the same Votes and Proceedings at page 441, you will see that the ordinary revenue and ordinary expenditure were as follows :

Ordinary Revenue.		Ordinary Expenditure.	
1892-93....	\$4,380,857 10....	.....	\$3,952,258 75
1893-94....	4,308,461 04....	.....	3,877,079 63
1894-95....	4,227,121 66....	.....	4,045,971 03
1895-96....	331,196 17....	.....	4,071,082 77
1896-97....	874,966 22....	.....	4,685,450 42

"The the Conservatives will say, there were the following surpluses :

In 1892-93.....	.....	\$428,598 35
1893-94.....	.....	431,381 41
1894-95.....	.....	181,150 63
1895-96.....	.....	260,113 40

"As to the year 1896-97, we are not responsible, since we went out of office on the 26th May, 1897."

To this objection we will reply, in the first place, as Mr. Tellier did, in the Legislative Assembly, on the 28th April, 1892 :

"It would be useless to seek to deceive ourselves and to deceive the country by a fanciful classification of our receipts and expenditure. So long, Mr. Speaker, as our surpluses exist only on paper, like most of those of our predecessors, our treasury will always be empty and we shall always be obliged to fill it by borrowing." (Debates of the Legislature, 1892, page 11).

In the second place, we say :

The new taxes were imposed, not to pay what is called ordinary expenditure, current expenses, but to meet the obligations contracted previous to 1892, and, in particular, to enable the Government to reimburse the guarantee deposits made by railway companies and to pay the railway subsidies voted by the Mercier Government, as soon as they became due. Now, it is not fair to base oneself on that statement printed on page 441 of the Votes and Proceedings for 1903, to state that there was equilibrium in the finances in 1893, 1894, 1895 and 1896, for the receipts derived from the new taxes are included in "ordinary revenue," while the sums paid to railway companies as subsidies or as reimbursement of their guarantee deposits are not included in the figures of the ordinary expenditure.

In support of our statement we will merely give the following quotations :

".....It is to meet the obligations left by the Mercier Administration that the Government has been compelled to impose the new taxes.... (Mr. Hall's speech in the Legislative Assembly, 24th February, 1893. (Page 567).

"Before proceeding to the consideration of the public accounts for the last year, I deem it my duty to remark that the Honorable Treasurer attributes to himself the merit of *the decreases in the amounts paid for subsidies to railways and repayments of railway guarantee deposits.*

"These decreases are certainly not due to any action of the present Government. They are simply liabilities of the province, which have gradually diminished and which will further continue to diminish until they completely disappear from the public accounts. It is not in the power of the present Government to reduce them to the extent of even one dollar and, if they have dwindled to comparatively small proportions, it is because, five years before the advent of the present Government, a determined and continuous effort was made by the previous Governments from 1892 to 1897 to extinguish these liabilities; and it was to this end that the Conservative Government had the courage to impose taxes and that it afterwards repealed them as far and as fast

as possible, when the object for which they had been imposed had in a large measure been attained." (Speech by Hon. Mr. Atwater in the Legislative Assembly, on 9th of February, 1899.)

" By Mr. Tessier.—Are the proceeds of the taxes levied in 1892 and the payments made to reimburse the guarantee deposits made by railways, included in the statement of the ordinary receipts and expenditure furnished by the Provincial Treasurer on the 18th of this month, in his answer to Mr. Tellier's question. (Page 441 of the Votes and Proceedings) ?

" Answer by Honorable Mr. Weir:

" *The proceeds of the taxes levied in 1892 are included in the ordinary receipts.*

" *The payments made to reimburse the guarantee deposits made by railways are not included in the ordinary payments*

(Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly for 1908, page 570).

As regards the contention that the Conservatives are not responsible for the deficit of 1896-97, we will show what it is worth.

And, in the first place, our adversaries cannot, under any pretext, deny the paternity of the deficit which the accounts for the year 1896-97 showed on the 26th May, 1897. The Flynn Government administered provincial affairs until the 26th May, 1897.

Now, here is the statement of the receipts and expenses on the 26th May, 1897. We have prepared it, basing ourselves on the answers given by the Provincial Treasurer to certain questions put on the 23rd April, 1908. (See pages 575, 576, 577 and 578 of the Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly for 1908).

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR 1896-1897, TO 26th MAY, 1897.

ORDINARY RECEIPTS

1. Dominion of Canada.....	\$1,257,183 70
2. Crown Lands.....	666,323 13
3. Administration of Justice.....	204,753 61
4. Registration stamps.....	57,702 10
5. Hotel and shop licences, etc.....	272,318 19
6. Taxes on commercial corporations.....	134 071 02
7. Direct taxes on certain persons.....	3,409 84
8. Taxes on transfers of property.....	69,050 10
9. Licenses for trade and manufactures.....	9 625 30
10. Succession duties.....	149,004 95
11. Legislation.....	8,009 77
12. Insane asylums.....	7,647 09
13. Industrial and reformatory schools.....	743 58
14. Quebec Official Gazette.....	19,579 07
15. Interest on price of Q. M. O. & O. R.R..	298,745 07
16. Interest on loans and deposits.....	34,541 84
17. Other ordinary receipts.....	19,782 28

Total ordinary receipts.....	\$3,312,493 69
Extraordinary receipts (exclusive of loans)...	2,500 00

Total receipts (exclusive of loans).....	\$3,314,993 69
--	----------------

ORDINARY EXPENDITURE

Public debt.....	\$1,164,250 71
Legislation.....	233,943 97
Civil Government.....	248,308 80
Administration of Justice.....	508,293 40
Reformatory and industrial schools.....	51,707 74
Public Instruction.....	357,176 66
Agriculture.....	208,950 00
Colonization and Immigration.....	166,490 64
Public Works (ordinary).....	140,344 46
Insane asylums.....	259,289 39
Benevolent institutions.....	44,175 75

Other services (ordinary expenditure).....	480,069 95
Total ordinary expenditure..	<u>\$3,808,001 46</u>

EXTRAORDINARY EXPENDITURE

(EXCLUSIVE OF LOANS AND RAILWAY SUBSIDIES)

Public Works.....	\$ 173,700 19
Railway company guarantee deposits.....	127,823 86
Trust deposits.....	14,777 41
	<u>\$ 316,301 43</u>
Total expenditure (exclusive of loans and railway subsidies...)	\$4,124,302 92

RECAPITULATION

Ordinary expenditure.....	\$3,808,001 49
Ordinary receipts.....	3,212,493 69
	<u>Deficit.. \$ 595,507 77</u>
Total expenditure (exclusive of loans and railway subsidies).....	\$4,124,302 92
Total receipts (exclusive of loans).....	3,314,993 69
	<u>Deficit.... \$ 809,309 23</u>

This deficit of \$809,309.23 is undeniable and is really the work of the Flynn Government. It should be noted also that if we took into account all the receipts and all the expenditure (loans alone excluded) the deficit would be \$2,293.191.94 (page 578 of the same Votes and Proceedings).

Moreover, the Flynn Government had then received the Federal subsidy to the last cent and, out of the \$299,395.07 to be paid during the year 1896-97, it had received \$298,745.07. On the other hand, there still remained \$386,623.45

to be paid on account of the public debt, and \$55,791.44 on the expenses incurred for the general elections of the 11th May. (Page 577 of the same Votes and Proceedings.) The sum of \$503,293.40 had already been spent for the administration of justice and as most of the expenses incurred in connection with this were paid only every three months, viz : in October, January, April and July, there remained considerable amounts to be paid. There remained to be paid before 1st July, 1897, two months' salaries to the employees of the outside service and one month's salary to the employees of the inner service. Most of the appropriations were exhausted, while, on the other hand, the collection of the sums due the Province had been scandalously neglected. It is not surprising therefore that they should have been so great a deficit at the end of the year 1896-97. Our adversaries clamor that the Marchand Government manipulated the accounts of 1896-97, but it has never been proved that Mr. Marchand neglected to get in amounts that should have been collected previous to the 1st July, 1897 or that, between the 26th May and the 30th June, 1897, he paid out sums that were not due.

Whatever may be said, the amounts paid during the fiscal year 1896-97 were paid under statutes passed before Mr. Marchand came into power, or under special warrants authorized by the Flynn Government or by the Marchand Government. Now, it appears from an answer to Mr. Perreault on the 23rd April, 1908, that the amount of the ordinary expenditure was \$4,685,450.42 in 1896-97 ; that \$4,318,368.77 of such expenditure was paid under statutes ; that \$143,976.37 was paid under special warrants authorized by the Flynn Government and \$223,105.28 under special warrants authorized by the Marchand Government. The list of special warrants authorized by the Marchand Government will be found on pages 332 and following of the Public Accounts for 1897 and we defy anybody to find anything abnormal in them.

THE ORDINARY EXPENDITURE INCREASES

We have proved that in 1890 Mr. Taillon promised to reduce the ordinary expenditure by several hundred thousand dollars per anum, by \$500,000.00 in a few years.

Another promise broken!

On page 441 of the Votes and Proceedings of last session, we find the following:

Year	Ordinary Expenditure.
1889-90.....	\$3,993,716 68
1892-93.....	3,952,258 75
1893-94.....	3,877,079 63
1894-95.....	4,045,971 03
1895-96.....	4,071,082 77
1896-97.....	4,685,450 42

If, for the sake of more accurate comparison, we carry, from the accounts of 1896-97 to the accounts of 1895-96, the \$95,498.93 that should have been paid in 1895-96, but were paid only in 1896-97 (See page 311 of the same Votes and Proceedings); and if we deduct the \$57,500.00 paid in 1889-90 and the \$73,492.75 paid in 1896-97 for the general elections in 1890 and in 1897, we have the following table:

Year.	Ordinary Expenditure..
1889-90.....	\$3,936,216 68
1892-93.....	3,952,258 75
1893-94.....	3,877,079 63
1894-95.....	4,045,971 03
1895-96.....	4,166,581 70
1896-97.....	4,516,458 74

As may be seen, the increase in ordinary expenditure, the current expenses, was growing more and more rapidly and in 1897, the decrease of \$500,000.00 promised by Mr. Taillon was far from being attained.

"But", our adversaries say, "the ordinary expenditure was much greater in 1890-91 and in 1891-92 than in 1889-90; your reasoning is not fair."

It is true that, as appears on page 441 of the Votes and Proceedings aforesaid, the ordinary expenditure was \$4,236,023.92 in 1890-91 and \$4,542,064.91 in 1891-92. (In these amounts are included the sums entered in the public accounts under the head of "special expenditure" and which is ordinary expenditure). But what we wished to show is that the Conservatives did not fulfil the promise given by their leader, Mr. Taillon, in 1890.

Moreover, if anybody be responsible for the expenditure of 1891-92, it is the Conservatives, since Mr. Angers put the Mercier Government under tutelage as early as September, 1891, and dismissed it on the 16th December, 1891. With regard to the ordinary expenditure of 1890-91, it was higher than in 1892-93, but the reduction effected in 1892 was not long maintained. It affected, moreover, the grants to Public Instruction, Colonization, Agriculture and Benevolent Institutions, as may easily be seen by referring to page 33 of Mr. Hall's Budget Speech on the 20th May, 1892.

THEIR EXTRAVAGANCE AND PILLAGE

The Conservatives had likewise promised to govern with economy and honesty. They broke this promise as they broke all they gave.

During the electoral campaign of 1890, Mr. Taillon said that, if power were entrusted to them, "the Conservatives could easily reduce the expenditure by \$500,000.00 in a few years." Now, if it was so easy to reduce the expenditure of 1890 by \$500,000.00, how is it that they increased it by \$600,000.00? There is but one answer to that question: the Province's money was wasted and squandered.

We have no intention of here telling the story of the extravagance and plundering of the "honest people." We shall merely recall a few cases which are very characteristic of their method of government.

MR. LEBLANC'S ECONOMY.

Honor to whom honor is due. Since Mr. LeBlanc is now the reputed leader of the "honest men," we will deal with him first.

Mr. LeBlanc was Speaker of the Legislative Assembly during the Parliament of 1892-97. As such he controlled the contingent expenses of legislation from the day of his election in April, 1892, to the day of his successor's election on the 23rd November, 1897. The Public Accounts of 1897-98, page 77, show further that he received the salary attached to the Speakership until the 23rd November, 1897. Mr. LeBlanc is, therefore, wholly responsible for the controllable expenses of the session of 1896-97.

Now, this is what is revealed by the comparison of that expenditure with that of the previous session (see page 70 of the Public Accounts for 1896 and page 74 of the Public Accounts for 1897).

	1895-96	1896-97			
Extra services.....	\$ 6,292.10	\$15,959.10 Inc.	\$9,667.00	or	1.53%
Messengers.....	3,948.50	5,932.82 "	1,984.32	"	50%
Stationery.....	4,966.96	1,858.24 Dec.	3,108.72	"	
Newspapers.....	563.15	601.73 Inc.	38.58	"	6%
Miscellaneous.....	7,825.84	8,454.58 "	628.74	"	8%
Stenographers to committees	304.88	404.86 "	100.02	"	33%
Pensions-Civil Service..	10.44	2.96 Dec.	7.48		
Total.....	\$ 23,911.87	\$ 33,214.29 Inc.	\$9,302.42	or	38%

Thus, according to the Public Accounts, the controllable expenses of the session of 1896-97, exceeded those of the previous session by 38 per cent.

But the Public Accounts for 1896-97 do not tell us the whole truth, as is shown by the following correspondence of the Accountant of the Legislative Assembly :

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE.

Quebec, 23rd March, 1908.

L. SIMONEAU, Esq.,
Quebec.

DEAR SIR,

In examining the Public Accounts, I find that the stationery for the Legislative Assembly cost \$4,966.00 in 1895-96 ; \$1,858.00 in 1896-97, and \$10,095.00 in 1897-1898. Could you tell me as soon as possible *whether that amount of \$10,095.00 includes certain sums due before the 1st July, 1897?* If so, what is the total of such amounts?

Yours truly,

(Signed) L. P. GEOFFRION,

Private Secretary.

ACCOUNTANT'S OFFICE

Quebec, 23rd March, 1908.

Sir,

In answer to your letter of this date, I beg to say that *in the item of \$10,095.00 there is an amount of \$4,989.40 for goods purchased in May and paid in July, 1897 and another of \$51.90 for goods purchased in June and also paid in July, 1897, making a total of \$5,041.30.*

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) L. SIMONEAU,

Accountant.

If we add to the accounts for 1896-97 this sum of \$5,-041.30 irregularly paid out of the appropriations for 1897-98. we get the following :

Spent for stationery.

1896-97.....	\$1,858.24
Plus.....	5,041.30
Total for 1896-97.....	\$6,899.54
Total for 1895-96..	4,966.96
Increase.....	\$1,932.58 or 38 p.c.
Total expenditure 1896-97.....	\$33,214.29
Plus.....	5,041.30
	\$38,255.59
1895-96.....	23,911.87
Increase.....	\$14,343.72 or 60 p.c.

Thus, in a single year, Mr. LeBlanc had increased the sessional expenditure by 60 per cent.

What reasons could justify such an extraordinary increase? Was the session of 1896-97 longer or more laborious than the previous one? Not at all. But the general elections were drawing near; they had to be prepared for and the ardor of friends had to be stimulated. This is shown in an unequivocal manner by the following statement prepared by the Accountant of the Legislative Assembly :

STATEMENT of the number of Sessional Clerks and Messengers during the session of 1895 and 1896-97 and of the total amount paid them during the said sessions, as well as the duration of such sessions :

Session of 1895.

	Number	Amount paid.
Extra writers....	36	\$5,261 10
Messengers and pages....	35	2,722 96
Total....	71	\$7,984 06

The session opened on the 30th October and closed on the 21st December, 1895.

Session of 1896-97

	Number	Amounts paid.
Extra writers....	104	\$12,970 10
Messengers and pages....	62	4,860 48
Total....	166	\$17,830 58

That session opened on the 17th November, 1896, and closed on the 9th January, 1897 .

(Signed) L. SIMONEAU,

Accountant

Thus, during the latter session, Mr. LeBlanc had nearly trebled the number of extra writers and nearly doubled the number of messengers and pages. He spent for sessional employees nearly \$10,000.00 more than in the previous year and yet the session of 1896-97 lasted only one day longer than the session of 1895.

And Mr. LeBlanc poses for economy !

You may judge by the above how many writers and messengers he would require for administering the affairs of the Province and the kind of economy he would practise, were the member for Laval to become Prime Minister.

A SLICE FOR MR. CHAPAIS.

From 1892 to 1895, the Legislative Council was presided over by one of its members who did not form part of the Ministry.

In January, 1893, Mr. Thomas Chapais, Legislative Councillor, and proprietor of the *Courrier du Canada*, was called upon to form part of the Taillon Cabinet as Minister without portfolio.

If his duties as Minister without portfolio were not very cumbersome, his duties as ministerial journalist were then very much more so. Thus it was decided to reward the unflagging zeal which Mr. Chapais, as a journalist, displayed in the defence of Conservative interests.

In 1894, the Taillon Government had an act passed (56 Vict., chap. 13), enacting that the Speaker of the Legislative Council might, in future, be a member of the Executive Council of the Province. The object of that statute was to enable Mr. Chapais to receive the salary of \$3,000.00 attached to the office of President of the Executive Council.

But Mr. LaBruère was Speaker of the Legislative Council and he could not reasonably be removed without giving him the equivalent of the salary he was getting.

The difficulty was solved in the following manner:

Mr. G. Ouimet was Superintendent of Public Instruction, with a salary of \$3,000.00. Under the pretext that he was incapable of continuing to perform his duties, Mr. Ouimet was superannuated on a yearly pension of \$2,600.00.

Mr. LaBruère was appointed Superintendent of Public Instruction with a salary of \$3,000.00; he was replaced in the Legislative Council by Mr. Ouimet, who thus received,

in addition to his pension, a yearly indemnity of \$800.00, and Mr. Chapais was thus enabled to become Speaker of the Legislative Council in April, 1895, and receive a salary of \$3,000.00 per annum.

By such manipulation, each of the three friends of the Government, Messrs. Ouimet, LaBruère and Chapais got a larger slice of the cake and the whole Province had to be satisfied since those gentlemen were.

MR. HACKETT'S PRUDENCE

As we have said, the de Boucherville Government, in 1892, had certain acts revived which had been repealed by the Mercier Government, compelling municipalities to contribute to the care and maintenance of the insane in asylums and of juvenile offenders in reformatory and industrial schools.

Under the terms of the law, the accounts for yearly contributions which the municipalities are thus called upon to pay, must be sent them at the end of January by the Deputy Provincial Secretary.

Now, at the end of January, 1897, the general elections were imminent, the hour was about to strike when the "taxers" would have to render an account of their failure to carry out their pledges.

Mr. Hackett was then Provincial Secretary. Like a prudent man, he thought it would be a good thing to suspend the collection of contributions due by municipalities.

On the 29th January, 1897, he sent the following despatch from Stanstead to his Deputy-Minister, Mr. Jos. Boivin.

"Do not send out accounts against municipalities until you hear from me."

On the same day, Mr. Hackett wrote to his Deputy-Minister :

Stanstead, Que., 29th January, 1897.

My dear Sir,

I do not think it *prudent at the present time* to enforce collections from counties. Let it remain until I see you, please.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) M. F. HACKETT.

Those two documents form part of official record No. 404 of the archives of the Provincial Secretary's Department for the year 1897.

On the wrapper of the record are the following notes :

3rd February, 1897.

" Let the collection of these accounts await further orders.

M. F. H.,
P. S.

" Go on. 13th May, 1897.

M. F. H.

It is needless to recall that a general election took place on the 11th May, 1897.

Thus did the " honest men " carry on the elections.

And that is why the amount of the municipal contributions paid to the Government in 1896-97 was so small.

A GOOD MOVE OF MR. NANTEL'S

On coming into power in 1891, Mr. Nantel, Commissioner of Public Works, seemed no longer willing to continue the repairs to the Montreal court-house until he had become thoroughly acquainted with all the facts connected with that undertaking. Orders had been given to the contractor, Mr. Berger, to suspend work and nothing was to be paid him until more ample information was obtained.

Nevertheless, on the 19th February, 1892, in the midst of the electoral contest, Mr. Nantel began to have a little confidence in Mr. Berger and he wrote the following letter to Mr. Lesage :

Montreal, 19th February, 1892.

"SIMÉON LESAGE, ESQ.,

*Assistant Commissioner of Public Works,
Quebec.*

"DEAR SIR,

"After having carefully examined Mr. Berger's account, I think it would be only *fair* to pay him a certain amount on the price of his work, for I am convinced that, after such payment, a *sufficient margin will remain to secure the Government against loss.*

"I am, therefore, of opinion that a sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000.00) should be paid him *immediately* out of the appropriations voted.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) G. A. NANTEL,
Commissioner of Public Works."

As may be seen, Mr. Nantel was becoming hurried and hurrying.

Mr. Lesage understood and, on receipt of that letter, he telegraphed to Mr. Nantel :

"Letter received. I am signing certificate for twenty-five thousand dollars on account of contract."

Who can explain the sudden eagerness on the part of Mr. Nantel and of Mr. Lesage? He alone who does not lose sight of the fact that the voting was to take place on the 8th March following:

MR. TAILLON'S MORAL OBLIGATION

On the 16th February, 1891, Mr. Pierre Garneau had written a letter to Mr. Philippe Vallieres, of Quebec, telling him that the Government needed a certain quantity of furniture for the Montreal Court House, etc. He was authorized by his colleagues to give the contract for such furniture to Mr. Vallieres and Mr. Jas. Walker of Montreal.

Mr. Vallieres made furniture for about \$72,000.00 and was paid \$60,000.00 as an advance. This is the Vallieres contract about which so much fuss was made during the elections of 1892.

On coming into power, Mr. deBoucherville repudiated all responsibility on the part of the Government towards Mr. Vallieres.

"Under the deBoucherville Administration, the Government considered this pretended contract as illegal and as *prejudicial to the interests of the Province.*" (Report of the Commissioner of Public Works for 1893-94, page 14).

The Vallieres contract was, therefore, void and prejudicial to the interests of the Province.

On the 27th April, 1894, according to the same report, the Government had a protest served on Mr. Vallieres, in which it declared that it was prepared to enter into a new contract with him for supplying the required furniture.

Mr. Vallieres replied that he was prepared to enter into a new contract and on the 6th June, 1894, to make up for the annoyance that Mr. Vallieres had been caused and to acquit what Mr. Taillon calls a *moral obligation* towards him, he was given an order for the furniture that was required, not only for the Montreal Court House, but also for the court-house of Hull and Pontiac, at the same prices as those on the lists made out under the Mercier Government.

What obligations morality imposes on the "honest men" !

PICKINGS UNDER MR. NANTEL.

When the deBoucherville Government came into power, Mr. Berger alone had the contract for the repairs to the Montreal Court House.

Immediately after the elections of 1892, he was compelled, by means that have remained unknown, to associate with himself, for the completion of the work. Mr. Emmanuel St. Louis, whom the Curran Bridge affair has made almost famous, and Mr. Ludger Consineau, a man who is well known, especially for his adhesion to the Conservative party.

These gentlemen had barely begun operations when the Government gave them extra work to do, *without calling for tenders*.

On the 24th September, 1894, the Government had already paid \$468,209.90 for such extra work.

Now, inasmuch as, according to a letter of Mr. Raza, the Government architect, Messrs. Berger, St. Louis and Cousineau were to receive for such work 20 per cent over and above the wages paid the workmen and 20 per cent over the price of the materials supplied, it may be seen what pickings they realized out of such work.

And all this happened under placid Mr. Nantel!

MR. CASGRAIN'S REVISING MACHINE

Immediately on coming into power, the "saviors" of 1892 had to find places and rewards for relatives for friends.

To that end, Mr. T. Chase Casgrain, the Attorney-General, conceived the idea of a Commission for the revision of the Code of Civil Procedure.

In the first place he had himself appointed chairman of the commission with a salary of \$2,000 per annum, beginning to run from the day when he would cease to be a Minister.

Then he associated with himself Judge LaRue, a very near relative of Mr. Angers, who had so well served the Conservative cause at Spencer Wood, and Judge Davidson, who had been one of the famous "petty bench" of 1891 imposed on Mr. Mercier by Mr. Angers.

The following extract from the Votes and Proceedings of last session (page 466) shows how much Mr. Casgrain's revising machine cost.

"By Mr. Langlois—1. How much did the last revision of the Code of Civil Procedure cost?

2. How long did the work last?

"Answer by Honorable Mr. Weir:

1. \$57,450.67.

2. From 24th September, 1892, to 31st August, 1897."

Thus the revision lasted five years and cost \$57,450.67 to make a new Code of Procedure.

Now, the new Code is no better than the old one.

Mr. Tellier said so in the Legislative Assembly on the 3rd April last.

A PRESENT OF \$92,000.00 TO MR. CHARLEBOIS

Although Mr. Charlebois had already been intimate with Mr. Bergeron, he could not succeed in getting paid certain sums which he claimed to be due him by the Government. After trying persuasion, he took out a suit for \$52,680.80.

The Government pleaded that it owed nothing to Mr. Charlebois, but that, on the contrary, the latter owed it \$52,540.95, an amount wrongly paid when previous settlements were made.

At page 30 of his report for 1893-94, the Commissioner of Public Works says :

"The difference between Mr. Charlebois' claim and that of the Government arises from the manner of interpreting the agreements which took place at the beginning of April, 1895."

This, therefore, was one of the "honest men's" affairs.

And again on page 31 :

"The allegation in the pleas that the Government owes nothing and that Mr. Charlebois has been paid \$52,540.95 too much, is based upon a statement of account furnished by the officers of the Department of Public Works."....

But what was that statement worth ! On the 13th June 1897, the Government remitted Mr. Charlebois the \$52,540.95 which he owed and undertook to pay him \$40,000.00 in addition.

That arrangement therefore made the Province lose \$92,540.95.

PLUMS FOR CONSERVATIVE ADVOCATES

On the 16th February, 1892, Mr. Hall, the Treasurer

of the de Boucherville Cabinet, made a speech at Windsor Hall, Montreal, which he afterwards caused to be printed in pamphlet form and distributed.

In that speech, Mr. Hall said with reference to the item "Miscellaneous" under the head of expenditure for Administration of Justice :

"This item is supposed to represent the costs, fees and expenses in various suits or matters that may come up in which the Government may be interested. This interest is very often determined by the desire of the Administration to interfere in suits or give patronage to their friends." (Page 34 of the pamphlet.)

This item of expenditure which Mr. Hall denounced as extravagant was \$30,010.40 in 1890-91. (Page 5 of the Public Accounts for that year.)

Now does any one know what was spent in 1896-97 under the head of "Administration of Justice—Miscellaneous". \$33,639.42. (See page 5 of the Public Accounts for that year.)

And these figures show only a portion of the amounts paid to advocates who were friends of the Government.

If we look at the beginning of the general statement of expenditure for the year 1896-97, we find advocates' accounts pretty much everywhere. There are some under the head of "Expenses of the Legislature"; of "Farmers' Clubs and Encouragement of Agriculture generally"; of "Repairs to Court-Houses and Gaols"; of "Extraordinary Public Works"; of "Insane Asylums generally, etc."

The amounts so paid to advocates in 1896-97 form a complete aggregate of not less than \$65,000.00.

It would take too long to give a complete list of the legal

gentlemen who figure in the Accounts of 1896-97. We will merely give the names of a few with the amounts they received.

The figures between parentheses in the following statement are those taken from the pages of the Public Accounts for 1896-97, where those names and amounts are given.

STATEMENT showing the amounts paid to some Conservative advocates in 1896-97 for professional services, disbursements, retainers, etc.

Angers, Hon. A. R. (225).....	\$ 360 00
" " (229).....	3,735 00
" " (305).....	448 50
Archambeault & Quinn (131).....	6,400 00
Archambeault, J. L. (136).....	358 70
" " (137).....	350 00
" " (138).....	112 50
Archambeault, L. H. (139).....	2,342
Atwater, Hon. A. W. (226).....	582 56
Auger, O. M. (139).....	1,000 00
Baker, Hon. G. B. (131).....	214 75
Bampton, G. E. (131).....	305 00
Beaubien, L. O. (272).....	1,115 00
Beauchemin, A. O. F. (131).....	40 00
Beaudry, A. (131).....	20 00
" " (269).....	29 70
Belleau, I. N. (136).....	125 00
Belley, L. G. (131).....	75 00
" " (269).....	301 39
Bisaillon, F. J. (137).....	2,029 00
" " (137).....	250 00
" " (209).....	10 00
" " (297).....	50 00
" " (301).....	2,570 00
Bisaillon, Brosseau & Lajoie (137).....	790 60
Bouffard, Ed. (136).....	95 80
Brown, H. B. (131).....	20 00
Brown, H. B., & LeBlanc, J. A. (137).....	167 50
Caron, Pentland & Stuart (136).....	277 90

Caron, Pentland & Stuart (137).....	400 00
" " " (222).....	369 47
" " " (301).....	2,461 05
(See also C. A. Pentland & Stuart).	
Casgrain, Hon. T. C. (292).....	136 30
Cook, W. & A. H. (138).....	237 70
Corneiller, C. A. (131).....	340 00
" " (137).....	140 00
Crépeau & Crépeau (137).....	120 00
" " (219).....	50 00
Cressé, L. G. A. (226).....	250 00
Darveau, C. (136).....	305 08
" " (310).....	150 00
Davidson, Peers (138).....	70 50
Dionne, J. A. (137).....	50 00
" " (139).....	75 00
" " (293).....	100 00
Drouin, F. X. (136).....	1,730 11
" " (222).....	174 51
Dunbar, J. (131).....	240 00
" " (137).....	185 00
Elliott, J. K. (131).....	40 00
" " (136).....	400 00
Faribault, J. E. (131).....	491 25
" " (137).....	236 30
Ferguson, A. (136).....	41 25
" " (137).....	247 52
Fiset, E. L. (75).....	450 00
" " (136).....	50 00
" " (136).....	250 00
Foster, G. G. (139).....	2,332 80
Gendron, L. A. (131).....	100 00
Girouard, Hon. D. (215).....	555 25
Hall, Hon. J. S. (299).....	6,314 65
Lamothe, Trudel & Trudel (136).....	428 20
" " " (137).....	350 00
" " " (181).....	136 30
Languedoc, W. C. (131).....	275 00
" " (136).....	55 00
" " (137).....	60 00
" " (310).....	30 00
LeBlanc, J. A., (See Brown).	
Leclair, P. (225).....	355 75

Lefebvre, F. (131).....	130 00
" " (137).....	40 00
" Thos. (269).....	712 51
Lortie, Edm. (293).....	240 00
Macmaster & Maclellan (136).....	151 23
" " (137).....	179 90
" " (293).....	500 00
McDougall, J. M. (137).....	379 28
McGibbon, Hogle & Mitchell (131).....	105 00
" " " (139).....	408 60
" " " (136).....	529 75
McGoun, A. (291).....	450 00
Méthot, J. E. (131).....	30 00
Nantel, W. B. (131).....	300 00
Olivier & Desy (137).....	20 00
Olivier & Desy (137).....	125 00
Pacaud, Aug: (137).....	252 50
(See Taschereau & Pacaud)	
Pentland, C. A. (310).....	30 00
(See also Caron, Pentland & Stuart)	
Pouliot, J. N. (131).....	335 00
" " (136).....	44 00
Prince, J. F. (136).....	75 00
Quinn, M. J. F. (136).....	133 00
" " (138).....	112 50
(See also Archambeault & Quinn).	
Renaud, J. A. (131).....	294 00
" " (136).....	150 00
" " (137).....	40 00
" " (138).....	57 30
Rhéaume, A. (269).....	42 09
Rion, C. S. (131).....	27 50
Robertson, A. (310).....	413 17
Robitaille, J. B. (136).....	550 00
Simard, A. H. (131).....	285 00
Stephens & Co. (293).....	120 00
Stuart, Gust. (137).....	250 00
(See Caron, Pentland & Stuart)	
Taschereau & Pacaud (137).....	309 10
Taschereau, Linière (131).....	237 70
" " (136).....	487 55
Taillon, Hon. L. O. (138).....	112 46

Taillon, Hon. L. O. (299).....	1,225 00
Thibault, C. (131).....	200 00
Turcotte, H. A. (196).....	123 00
" " (137).....	100 00
" " (222).....	456 90
" " (31).....	141 70

Of course, we do not claim that all those sums were spent unnecessarily. In many instances they were due. But there is a great deal of difference between that and saying that the Government needed that swarm of lawyers to defend its interests.

And it should be noted that the above statement gives only the amounts paid in a single year, the year of grace 1896-97, Mr. Flynn reigning and Messrs. Pelletier, Chapais, Beaubien, Nantel and Hackett, wrangling with one another. From the 21st December, 1891, to the 1st July, 1896, the advocates had not been neglected; far from it: \$180,000 had been distributed among them.

Here are the names of the happy mortals who got the largest plums:

In Montreal:

Archambeault & Quinn.....	\$28,357 54
John S. Hall, ex-Treasurer.....	22,383 75
D. Girouard.....	16,003 00
D. Macmaster.....	14,530 19
A. W. Atwater.....	3,029 31
C. A. Cornellier.....	3,954 21
R. D. McGibbon.....	1,970 53

In Quebec:

W. C. Languedoc.....	6,715 30
I. N. Belleau.....	6,484 85
G. G. Stuart.....	6,143 37
Beaubien & Lortie.....	2,225 63

F. X. Drouin.....	2,121 13
C. Darveau.....	2,080 12
L. E. Burroughs.....	2,045 23
Adj. Turcotte.....	1,752 85

And for the collection of taxes :

Archibald, Foster & Beaubien....	12,913 40
J. I. Lavery.....	2,251 33

Is it surprising that the Conservative advocates desire the return of that beneficent regime..for them?

MR. D'AUTEUIL'S ELECTION FUND.

During the Parliament of 1892-97 the county of Charlevoix was represented in the Legislative Assembly by Mr. Morin.

In 1897 Mr. Morin deserved to be beaten. Only think of it! He had disapproved of all the extravagance and unfitness of the "honest men." War to the death was therefore declared against him.

"War to the death" on the part of Flynn, Chapais and Pelletier, meant that other things than prayers would be resorted to.

Arrangements were therefore made to have an election fund for Mr. Morin's opponent. And this is what was hit upon :

Mr. P. D'Auteuil had been district magistrate since 1892. An appeal was made to his devotedness to the Conservative cause.

Thus, Mr. d'Auteuil tendered his resignation, which was accepted on the 4th of March, 1897.

The Government had regularly paid Mr. D'Auteuil the

yearly salary to which he was entitled, viz: \$2,200.00 and had always reimbursed his travelling expenses. But, in asking to be superannuated, Mr. D'Auteuil probably rendered the Province a great service. In any case, Mr. Flynn had Mr. D'Auteuil paid out of the appropriation for "Miscellaneous Generally," the sum of \$300.00 as a gratuity (See page 225 of the Public Accounts for 1896-97) and Mr. L. P. Pelletier, on his part, granted him \$750.00 for "extra allowance 1892 to 1897." (See page 135 of the Public Accounts for 1896-97).

With this sum of \$1,050.00 from the Province, Mr. P. D'Auteuil could carry on a campaign against the Liberal candidate.

Oh, purity of the pure!

THE REVISION OF THE MONTREAL LISTS

To show how the "honest men" practised economy, it is not out of place to compare certain figures of the expenditure of 1897 with those of 1907.

At page 84 of the Public Accounts for 1906-07, we find the following:

Indemnity to Revisors and other expenses under 60 Vic. Cap. 21.

F. X. Choquet.....	Revisor, Montreal, Government's half of indemnity.....	100 00
Adlard de Martigny.....	do do do do.....	100 00
Alex. Rivers Hall.....	do do do do.....	100 00
Alp. Pouliot.....	do Quebec, do do do do.....	75 00
Jos. Allaire.....	do do do do do do.....	75 00
Ant. C. Taschereau.....	do do do do do do.....	75 00
P. L. Hubert.....	do Three Rivers, do do do do.....	50 00
E. D. Boisclair.....	do do do do do do.....	50 00
J. M. Désilets.....	do do do do do do.....	50 00
City of Montreal.....	Advertising re revision of voters' lists, 1907.....	207 75
George Dubreuil.....	Clerk, Board of Revisors, Montreal, Governments' half of indemnity.....	75 00
H. J. J. B. Chouinard.....	do do do Quebec, do do.....	75 00
J. O. Lebel.....	Services as clerk, Quebec.....	68 75
Louis Girard.....	do do.....	15 00
Miss Amanda Gingras.....	Type-writing, do.....	5 25
"Le Soleil".....	Advertising voter's lists, 1907, Quebec.....	525 00
Chronicle Printing Co.....	do do.....	525 00
		\$ 2,171 75

If we turn up page 79 of the Public Accounts for 1896-97, we find the following entry:

Hon. Attorney-General.—To pay indemnity to Revisors, Montreal.		\$ 1,900 00	
Services of writers, etc., do		3,220 10	
Advertising and printing, do		1,454 10	
Advocates fees do		1,721 45	
Stationery, light, etc. do		499 08	8,795 63
Hon. Attorney-General.—To pay indemnity to Revisors, Quebec.		325 00	
Services of writers, etc do		265 50	
Advertising and printing, etc do		1,679 32	
Stamps, do		25 80	2,295 62
Advertising and printing, Three Rivers.			21 10
Amount unexpended to be accounted for.			20
E. D. Boisclair.—Revisor, Three Rivers, Government's half of indemnity.			11,112 50
J. B. Desilets, do do do			50 00
P. S. Hubert, do do do			50 00
"Le Trifluvien."—Three Rivers, advertising and printing.			50 00
L. J. Demers & Frère, Quebec, advertising and printing.			21 10
			941 43
			12,225 06

Thus the revision of the electoral lists for Quebec, Montreal and Three Rivers, which cost only \$2,171.75 in 1907, cost \$12, 225.08 in 1897.

And how was the greater portion of that sum of \$12, 225.08 spent?

The Montreal revisors were paid one-half by the Government and one-half by the city of Montreal and, according to law, the Government owed them an indemnity of \$900.00. They were paid \$1,900.00 to reward them, no doubt, for the good services they had rendered the Conservative party.

Messrs. Bisailon, Lamothe and Mignault, advocates, of Montreal, represented the interests of the Conservative party before the Montreal revisors. An opportunity for rewarding them presented itself and it was not allowed to pass.

The revisors appointed by the Flynn Government showed themselves so partial in the preparation of the electoral lists that the Liberals asked and obtained from one of the judges of the Superior Court an order commanding the revisors to suspend their work. Of course, they ignored the order and continued to strike the names of Liberals from the lists and to put those of Conservatives upon them.

The matter was, nevertheless, brought before the courts and the revisors had to answer for their arbitrary acts.

The Government naturally took the revisors' part.

The defence of the three revisors was the same. Nevertheless, the Attorney-General, Mr. L. P. Pelletier, instructed Messrs. Bisailon, Lamothe and Mignault to appear for each of the three revisors and, moreover, associated Mr. D. Macmaster with them as counsel.

The case was never pleaded on the merits for the very

good reason that, when it was inscribed for hearing, the revision was finished.

Now, how much was paid Messrs. Bisailon, Lamothe, Mignault and D. Macmaster for their professional services? \$1,721.45, and yet, according to the prothonotary's certificate, Messrs. Bisailon, Lamothe and Mignault were entitled to only \$138.95 each.

Here are the details of these gentlemen's accounts, which are carefully kept in the archives of the Treasury Department:

[Translation]

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC

TO

F. J. BISAILLON, *Dr.*

In *re* Writ of Prohibition and Rule *Nisi* against Messrs. Desnoyers, Crankshaw and Armstrong, Revisors for the city of Montreal.

Consultations with Messrs. Macmaster, Lamot' and Mignault, steps and proceedings, correspondence, studying the case, from 7th to 18th March, 1897 (retainer).....	\$300 00
Beaupré vs. Desnoyers, fees and costs.....	138 95
Beaupré vs. Desnoyers and Hon. L. P. Pelletier, intervening, fees and costs.....	54 60
<i>Re</i> Giroux vs. the Revisors:	
Consultations with Revisors, steps and proceedings, examination of lists, attendance at Court on 18th, 19th, 20th, 22nd and 23rd March last.....	50 00
	\$548 55

Received payment by cheque No. 44.

Quebec, 15th May, 1897.

(Signed) FRS. JOS. BISAILLON.

[Translation]

THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL,

Dr

To LAMOTHE, TRUDEL & TRUDEL,

Advocates.

1897

March—No. 263755. Montreal—Prohibition—

Beaupré vs. Desnoyers et al:

Consultations with Messrs. Bisailon, Q.C., Mignault, Q.C., and Masmaster, Q.C.

Studying the case and precedents. Reply to rule of court for imprisonment of Revisors, pleadings, defence, etc.

Fees to date (Retainer) to wit..... \$300 00

1897

May 4—Costs taxed to date..... 138 95

\$438 95

(Our Account)

(Signed) LAMOTHE, TRUDEL & TRUDEL,

Advocates.

Received payment by cheque No. 45.

Quebec, 15th May, 1897.

(Signed) Lamothe, Trudel & Trudel,

per FRS. J. BISAILLON.

[Translation]

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC,

Dr,

To P. B. MIGNAULT, advocate.

In re Writ of Habeas Corpus and Rule Nisi against Messrs.
Desnoyers, and others and Armstrong, Revisors, for the
city of Montreal.

Consultations with Messrs. McMaster, Bisaillon & Lamothe, steps and proceedings, correspon- dence, studying case, from 7th to 18th March last.....	\$300 00
Beaupré vs. Armstrong, fees and costs.....	188 95
	\$438 35

Received payment by cheque No. 46.

Quebec, 15th May, 1897.

(Signed) P. B. Mignault,

per FRS. JOS. BISAILLON

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC,

To D. MACMASTER, Q.C., Dr.

1897

March—No. 2637—Montreal—(Prohibition)

Beaupré vs. Desnoyers et al:

Consultation with Messrs. Bisaillon, Q.C., Mig-
nault, Q.C., Lamothe, Trudel and Trudel,
studying case, precedents, etc., etc.....

\$300 00

Montreal, 14th May, 1897.

Received payment by cheque No. 47.

Quebec, 15th May, 1897.

(Signed) D. Macmaster,

per FR^S. JO^S. BISAILLON.

The revision of the electoral lists is a matter of about ten days, and once more, the cost is paid one-half by the Government and one-half by the city of Montreal.

In 1897, the Revisors cost the Province:

For indemnity.....	\$1,900 00
For advocates' services.....	1,721 45
	\$3,621 45

The accounts were approved by Mr. L. P. Pelletier.
What a good regime was that of 1897!

A NEW KIND OF RAILWAY SUBSIDIES

In 1892, and since then the policy pursued by Mr. Mercier for encouraging the construction of railways has been greatly criticized.

In 1895 something entirely new was done.

The Mercier Government had caused certain subsidies to be voted to the Quebec, Montmorency & Charlevoix Railway Company, to aid it to extend its line from Cap Tourmente to Murray Bay.

In 1905 \$100,000.00 were voted to it to encourage it to continue its line, as may be seen by referring to the Act 58 Vict. Chap. 2.

The company, which was not excessively eager to extend its line, naturally accepted this offer of \$100,000.00, and the inhabitants of Charlevoix have no railway yet.

AN URGENT CASE.

The contestation in the county of Argenteuil must have been very close during the elections of the 11th May, 1897. This can be seen by the following report which Mr. Vallée, the Director of Railways, sent to his chief on the 31st May, 1897.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, QUEBEC

31st May, 1897.

Honorable E. T. DUFFY,
Commissioner of Public Works,

SIR,—

As a result of the interview I had the honor to have with you Saturday, I beg to make a full statement of the real facts connected with the incident reported by the Montreal "Herald" of the 18th May instant, about the payment of certain claims at St. Andrews, Argenteuil, on the 11th of May instant.

On the morning of the 10th May instant, I was requested by telephone to call at once on the then Prime Minister, Honorable E. J. Flynn, who stated he wanted me to go to St. Andrews and pay certain claims in connection with the Ottawa Valley Railway. He asked me what was the amount available for such purposes and I told him that an amount of about six hundred dollars was still due the company, which could be used towards the settlement of those claims.

Mr. Flynn then ordered me to leave for Lachute by the 1.40 train after having advised Hon. Mr. Atwater and Mr. Simpson of my leaving, which I did as shown by the telegrams on record, of which I enclose copies. On the way to Montreal, at 3.35 and 4.40 p.m., I received the following telegrams from Mr. Atwater and Mr. Simpson, confirming previous orders:

"To Louis A. Vallée, on up train. Make connections at St. Martin Junction and go direct to Lachute to-night without fail. Team in waiting will convey you to St. Andrews. (Signed), A. W. Atwater." "To Louis Vallée on board 59. To make connection you must change car at St. Martin's Junction. Do not fail to be here to-night; will meet you at train here. (Signed) W. J. Simpson."

I took the C.P.R. train at Montreal at 9.10 p.m. for Lachute where I arrived about 11 o'clock. I was met at the hotel by Senator Owens, Mr. Simpson and some other persons, to whom they introduced me, but whose names I do not recollect. I may say that up to Lachute I had travelled alone, and that I did not meet Mr. Armstrong on that occasion.

I drove from Lachute to St. Andrews, where I arrived about midnight. At the hotel I found several persons apparently waiting for me, among whom the only ones I remarked were Mr. Harry Abbott, of Montreal, and Mr. Simpson, of St. Andrews. I was requested by them to proceed at once to the payment of claims, which I refused to do, saying that I would certainly not pay anything during the night, and as I had no money with me. I insisted very much on this point, that I would not do anything but what was strictly according to the rules of the Department, and that I could not make payment by bonds suggested by some of the parties present. I then went to bed, and in the morning, between 8 and 9 o'clock I sent the following telegrams: "Hon. E. J. Flynn, Quebec. Please have six hundred dollars deposited to my credit as Director of Railways in Bank of Montreal to pay claims in the Ottawa Valley. Answer if all right. (Signed), Louis A. Vallée." "S. Lesage, Assistant Commissioner of Public Works, Quebec. Please have six hundred dollars to my credit as Director of Railways in Bank of Montreal to pay claims in re Ottawa Valley Railway. Answer if deposit is made. (Signed) Louis A. Vallée."

I waited at the telegraph office for the answer, which came between 10.30 and 11 a.m., and read thus: "Louis A. Vallée, Director of Railways, Lachute. Message received. all is right. (signed) Sim. Lesage, Assistant Commr." "Louis A. Vallée, Director of Railways, St. Andrews. The amount applied for has been deposited. You can draw. (Signed) S. Lesage, Asst. Commis."

It was only after having been thus notified of the amount deposited to my credit at the Bank of Montreal that I proceeded to pay the percentage allowed by the amount available at the Bank, which was equivalent to about 20 per cent. on \$2,974.06 total of claims. I began to pay after eleven o'clock, and before lunch two or three claimants were disposed of. I resumed work after lunch, and kept on till dinner time, and then in the evening. The last claimant came forward about 11 o'clock p.m. I made every payment with all due care, having each one duly receipted to the acquittal of the company in the presence of a witness.

The whole amount then paid by me at St. Andrews is \$392.61.

I beg to explain that having no Bank of Montreal blank cheques with me, I used blank cheques of the City and District Savings Bank, and that in filling them payable at the Bank of Montreal, I forgot to add "at Quebec," which explains that two of the cheques were presented at the Bank of Montreal at Montreal and payment refused. On my return to Quebec on the 13th May, I was made aware of the mistake and got the matter put right at once by the Bank at Quebec.

Such are the facts connected with the incident referred to by the "Herald," and they show that I have not made any payments during the night preceding the election, and that I have not issued bogus cheques. I may add that I acted on that occasion with the full sense of my official duties, and without any partiality for anyone, and I have the honor to submit the whole case to your impartial judgment.

I remain Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) LOUIS A. VALLEE,

Director of Railways.

COPIES

Quebec, May 10th, 1897.

Honorable A. W. ATWATER,
Montreal.

Leaving Quebec by 1.40 train for Montreal, and from there for Lachute by 9.10 train, in re Lachute and St. Andrew Railway matter.

(Signed) LOUIS A. VALLEE,

Quebec, May 10th, 1897.

W. J. SIMPSON, ESQ.,
M.P.P.,
Lachute.

Will leave Quebec by 1.40 train for Montreal and by 9.10 for Lachute, where I could meet you there.

(Signed) LOUIS A. VALLEE

That document speaks for itself and comment is unnecessary. Suffice it to recall that Mr. Simpson, who is mentioned in that report, was the Conservative candidate for the county of Argenteuil, at the elections of the 11th May, 1897.

SALE OF THE LAMONTAGNE LIMITS

The following question put by Mr. Gauthier, and the answer to it on the 24th April, 1908, give the facts that preceded this matter:

"By Mr. Gauthier—1. When was the license renewed, for the last time previous to the 27th March, 1897, which was originally granted to N. Tetu & Co., authorizing the cutting of timber on certain limits situate on the Escoumains and Sault au Mouton rivers, commonly called the "Lamontagne Limits."

" 2. For what period was such renewal granted?

" 3. Was public notice given on the 27th March, 1897, by the Commissioner of Lands, Forests and Fisheries, Mr. G. A. Nantel, that such limits would be put up to auction on the 28th April, 1897.

" 4. Did such notice of the 27th March, 1897, mention the upset price of such limits. If so, what was the total upset price mentioned?

" 5. Did the Department, previous to the 27th March, 1897, refuse to grant a renewal or a transfer of license on receipt of \$7,500.00 in settlement of all arrears due on such limits? If so, at what date and by whom had such offer of \$7,500.00 been made and when was it refused?

" 6. Did the Commissioner of Lands, Forests and Fisheries, Mr. G. A. Nantel, subsequently receive a fresh offer of \$7,500.00 and did he accept it?

" If so, at what date and by whom was such offer made and when was it accepted?

" 7. At the date when such offer of \$7,500.00 was accepted, what amounts were payable on such limits (a) for ground rents and fire-taxes, (b) for stumpage, (c) for bonuses on transfers, and what was the total amount of interest accrued on such various sums?"

" Answer by Honorable Mr. Turgeon :

" 1. In 1884.

" 2. For twelve months.

" 3. Yes.

" 4. Yes. That notice stated that the limits would be offered for sale at a total upset price of \$16,424.16.

" 5. Yes. That offer of \$7,500 had been made by Mr. T. J. Lamontagne, on the 22nd March, 1897, and refused on the 24th March, 1897.

" 6. Yes. The fresh offer of \$7,500 was made to the Commissioner of Lands, Forests and Fisheries, Mr. Nantel, on the 5th May, 1897, by Jos. Vermette & Co., on behalf of the creditors in *re* Lamontagne, and was accepted on the 5th May, 1897.

" 7. When the offer was accepted the following amounts were due on those limits :

For ground rent and fire tax.....	\$15,952 99
For stampage.....	1,812 51
For bonuses on transfers.....	3,729 00
For total interest accrued on the above amounts.....	12,717 22
Total.....	<u>\$34,211 72"</u>

(Pages 596 and 597 of the Votes and Proceedings for 1906).

To sum up : The license for the Lamontagne limits had not been renewed since 1884 .

In 1897 there was due \$34,211.72, of arrears of principal and interest under that license.

On the 24th March, 1897, the Flynn Government refused \$7,500 which Mr. Lamontagne offered in settlement of such arrears.

On the 27th March, 1897, the Government advertised the limits for sale on the 28th April following at a total upset price of \$16,424.16.

On the 5th May, 1897, Messrs. Vermette & Co. (Mr. Vermette is well known in Conservative circles) offered in their turn \$7,500.00 to Mr. Nantel, the Minister of Crown Lands, in settlement of the arrears due and Mr. Nantel accepted that offer the same day.

Now what happened between the 27th March and the 5th May, 1897?

The voting was to take place on the 11th May and Mr. Nantel, in the issue of the 14th December, 1901, of his newspaper, *La Nation*, tells us the following :

" On my return from the South on the 21st April,

(1897), *I saw the horrible state of inefficiency of our organization I might even say that there was none at all.*"

"And they who are accused of conspiring against the party were the very ones who enabled the Committee to continue and show signs of life. And on the day when we were about to shut up shop—Messrs. Rolland and Raza remember it—it was neither Mr. Royal (who, however, was very devoted) nor Mr. Beaubien who kept off the signal of distress."

And what happened after the 5th May, 1897?

Mr. Vermette at once resold the Lamontagne limits for over \$34,000.00.

Let every one draw his own conclusions.

ELECTION SUBSIDIES TO RAILWAYS

The "honest men" denounced M. Mercier for the subsidies he granted to railway undertakings. In 1895 Mr. Taillon promised to not grant fresh subsidies to railway companies, to not revive lapsed subsidies, and to refuse to transfer subsidies already voted from one undertaking to another.

Now, what did the Flynn Government do?

During the session preceding the general elections of the 11th May, 1897, it had itself authorized to pay at once and without conditions over a million and a half of subsidies which were to be paid only in from 40 to 50 years; it also had fresh subsidies voted to railway companies.

As soon as the session was over and when the elections were imminent, it undertook fresh engagements towards certain railway companies. It is right to remark that most of those subsidies which the Flynn Government promised during the course of the election campaign of 1897, had been asked previous to the session that closed on the 9th January. 1897.

Here is a list of some of those engagements :

By an order-in-council of the 23rd February, 1897, approved by the Lieutenant-Governor on the 27th of the same month, the Flynn Government decided to submit to the Legislature, at its first session, a measure authorizing the Provincial Treasurer, under certain conditions, to pay to the Chateauguay and Northern Railway Company a *subsidy of* \$24,000 as aid towards the construction of a bridge over the River des Prairies between the parish of Pointe-aux-Trembles and Charlemagne village. According to the text of the order-in-council, such subsidy seems to have been applied for to the Government by a letter of the company dated 26th November, 1896.

By an order-in-council of the 23rd February, 1897, approved by the Lieutenant-Governor on the 27th of the same month, the Flynn Government decided to submit to the Legislature, at its next session, a measure authorizing the Government of this Province, under certain conditions, to grant to the Montreal Bridge Company as aid towards the construction of a bridge over the River St. Lawrenec, between Montreal and Longueuil or St. Lambert, an amount which should not, however, exceed \$500,000. According to the text of the order-in-council, such subsidy seems to have been applied for by the company in the course of 1896.

By an order-in-council of the 23rd February, 1897, approved by the Lieutenant-Governor on the 27th of the same month, the Flynn Government decided to submit to the Legislature, at its next session, a measure authorizing the Government of the Province to pay, on certain conditions, to the Grand Trunk Railway Company an amount representing fifteen per cent of the cost of rebuilding the Victoria bridge, such sum, however, not to exceed \$250,000. According to the text of the order-in-council, such subsidy seems to have been asked for by a petition of the company dated 18th December, 1896.

By an order-in-council of the 1st March, 1897, approved by the Lieutenant-Governor on the 29th of the same month, the Flynn Government decided to submit to the Legislature, at its next session, *a measure to revive a lapsed subsidy of 230,000 acres* which had been granted in 1891 to the Drummond County Railway Company for a line between Carmel Hill and Arthabaska and applying such subsidy to 23 miles of railway, then almost completed from St. Leonard in the direction of Levis. According to the text of the order-in-council, such transfer of subsidy had been applied for by the company on the 30th August, 1893.

By an order-in-council of the 24th April, 1893, approved on the 27th of the same month by Sir A. Lacoste, the Administrator of the Province, the Flynn Government decided to submit to the Legislature, at its next session, a measure authorizing the Government *to transfer to the Drummond County Railway Company \$43,375.50 of the subsidies* previously voted in favor of the Orford Mountain Railway Company, in order to permit the said Drummond County Railway Company to build its line from the 23rd mile from St. Leonard to Levis.

By an order-in-council of the 28th April, 1897, approved on the 30th of the same month, by the Administrator of the Province, Sir A. Lacoste, the Flynn Government decided to submit to the Legislature, at its next session, *a measure reviving* in favor of the Napierville Junction Railway Company *a subsidy of 150,000 acres* which had been granted to it in 1891.

By an order-in-council, of the 22nd April, 1897, approved on the same day by the Administrator of the Province, Sir A. Lacoste, the Flynn Government decided *to remit an amount of \$149,774.37* with the interest accrued *thereon*, due by the Quebec & Lake St. John Railway to aid the latter to continue the operation of its road in winter as in summer and to extend it to Ha! Ha! Bay or St. Alphonse.

According to the text of the order-in-council of the 25th February, 1897, approved by the Lieutenant-Governor on the 26th of the same month, the Flynn Government decided to *guarantee*, for thirty years and under certain conditions, the payment by half-yearly instalments of interest at four per cent per annum on \$700,000.00 of debentures of the Montreal and Western Railway Company.

By an order-in-council of the 23rd January, 1897, approved by the Lieutenant-Governor on the 25th of the same month, the Flynn Government decided to *guarantee* for forty years and under certain conditions the payment by half-yearly instalments of interest at four per cent per annum on \$2,500,000.00 of debentures of the United Counties Railway Company. According to the text of the order-in-council such guarantee was asked by the company previous to the 30th September, 1896.

By an order-in-council, of the 24th April, 1897, approved on the 27th of the same month, the Administrator of the Province, Sir A. Lacoste, the Flynn Government decided to *guarantee* for twenty years and under certain conditions, the payment by half-yearly instalments of interest at four per cent per annum on \$8,270,000.00 of debentures of the Atlantic and Lake Superior Railway Company. According to the text of the order-in-council such guarantee seems to have been asked for by the company on the 7th April, 1897.

Thus between the date of the prorogation of the Houses and that of the general elections in 1897, the Flynn Government had undertaken :

To guarantee four per cent interest for 20, 30 or 40 years on bonds amounting to \$11,200,000.00.

To pay subsidies of \$774,000.00 to aid the construction of three bridges only ;

To revise lapsed subsidies to the amount of several hundred thousand dollars.

Why such eagerness to distribute subsidies to railway companies during the electoral campaign?

Why go even so far as to get the Administrator, Sir A. Lacoste, to approve an order-in-council, which the Lieutenant-Governor, Sir J. A. Chapleau, had refused to approve? For the fact is attested by Mr. Nantel himself, a Minister of the Flynn Cabinet, in the issue of the 15th December, 1901, of *La Nation*.

"The press also tells us how he (Chapleau) refused to grant the Government guarantee to the Baie des Chaleurs Railway (the Atlantic and Lake Superior). But they persisted in asking for it, and it was wrested from the Administrator who was not in a position to refuse it."

There is but one reply to these questions, and we find it in the "Gazette" of the 28th September, 1905:

"The Premiership fell to Mr. Flynn, a strong man intellectually, but not by character fitted for the leadership in such a crisis. His Government was persuaded by the Railway crowd which had done so much harm to the Province during Mr. Mercier's day of power, into courses that lost him the confidence of many influential men."

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR CHAPLEAU A SUB- SCRIBER TO THE CONSERVATIVE ELEC- TION FUND

In the issue of the 14th December, 1901, of *La Nation*, Mr. G. A. Nantel, who had been one of the Flynn Ministry, undertook to defend Chapleau against those who accused him of having betrayed the Conservative party during the elections of 1897. He published the following over his own signature:

"On my return from the South on the 21st of April, I saw the horrible state of inefficiency of our organization. I might even say that there was none at all.

"And they who were accused of conspiring against the party were the very ones who enabled the committee to continue and show signs of life. And on the day when we were about to shut up shop—Messrs. Rolland and Raza remember it—it was neither Mr. Royal (who, however, was very devoted), nor Mr. Beaubien, who kept off the signal of distress.

"I was a friend of the Governor, and his Minister. As a friend I constantly solicited his aid, and he gave it to me. The party benefited by this; the committee was enabled to resume its course which had been interrupted for some hours, and to carry on—not over well, it is true, but without shame and without disaster—until the polling day."

"Where then in all this is the odious role played by Chapleau towards his party?"

The fact of a Lieutenant-Governor assisting the election committee of a political party, is not an usual one.

And yet Chapleau never had the reputation of being a spendthrift with his own money.

To that article of Mr. Nantel's it may perhaps not be inopportune to add the following details:

On the 17th April, 1897, the Department of Public Works in Quebec issued the following cheque:

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC

No. 578:

\$54,162.50

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

(Official Cheque.)

To the Bank of Montreal—

Pay to the order of the Montreal and Western Railway

Company, fifty-four thousand, one hundred and ninety-two
50/100 dollars.

(Signed),

W. E. PETRY,

S. LEBLANC,

Accountant. Assistant Commissioner.

That cheque had been issued to pay certain subsidies
due the Montreal and Western Railway Company.

Endorsed on the cheque, which is now in the archives of
the Department of Public Works, is written :

For deposit to the credit of Sir J. A. Chapleau in the
Bank of Montreal, in Montreal.

(Signed) The Montreal and Western Railway Co'y.

J. D. ROLLAND,
Vice-President.

E. RODIER,
Secretary-Treasurer.

Pay agents Bank of Montreal, *New York* or order.

(Signed) BANK OF MONTREAL,
Montreal.

H. V. MEREDITH,

This is, perhaps, only a coincidence, but it is a strange
one.

ELECTORAL COLONIZATION.

On the 31st May, 1892, as the Liberals had blamed the
deBoucherville Government for having reduced the appropri-
ation for Colonization Roads to \$75,000.00, Mr. Tellier
moved the following motion :

"This House is of opinion that the sum of seventy-five thousand dollars, amount of the said item, is sufficient, and has full and entire confidence that in the judicious employment in the interest of colonization, which the Government will make of it, excellent results will be obtained." (Debates of the Legislature 1892, p. 187).

This motion was adopted by the Government and by all the Conservative members.

The appropriation for Colonization Roads remained at \$75,000.00 until December, 1895, when a supplementary appropriation of \$35,000.00 was asked for the then current year to meet, no doubt, certain exigencies during the general federal elections that were to take place. During the same session, however, an appropriation of \$75,000.00 only was asked for the year 1896-97.

The Federal elections took place on the 23rd June, 1896. During the contest, had this sum of \$75,000.00 which had been voted for the year 1896-97, been promised? Was it sought to *prepare* for the approaching provincial elections? In any case, on the 23rd July, 1896, that is to say, on the 23rd day of the year 1896-97, the Flynn Government passed an order-in-council authorizing the issue of a special warrant for \$55,800.00—"amount required and not included in the Estimates to meet the expenditure of certain necessary works on Colonization Roads, arising out of an *increased movement in colonization*." (See page 328 of the Public Accounts for 1896-97), and in January, 1897, it had an additional appropriation of \$25,000.00 voted by the House for the same purposes.

This was more than doubling the usual expenditure. Had there been, since 1892, as alleged in July, 1896, "an increased movement in colonization"?

One may judge of this by the following tables:

AREA OF CONCEDED LANDS

	Sales	Free Grants
1892-93.....	156,925 $\frac{1}{4}$ acres	37,646 acres
1893-94.....	149,667 "	31,850 "
1894-95.....	167,708 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	26,814 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
1895-96.....	129,604 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	31,869 $\frac{1}{2}$ "

(See Appendix No. 5a to Report of Minister of Lands and Forests for 1906-07).

Number of Letters Patent issued :

1892-93..	997
1893-94.....	727
1895-96.....	546
1895-96.....	546

(See Appendix No. 8 to Report of Minister of Lands and Forests, 1907.)

Was it intended to inaugurate a new colonization policy?

Not at all. In a speech delivered in the Legislative Assembly on the 9th February, 1899, Mr. Atwater, a former Provincial Treasurer, classified the amounts spent on so-called colonization roads, amongst the "*extraordinary, unforeseen and abnormal expenditure* of the year 1896-97."

To speak plainly, all that had been done was electoral colonization.

Beware of patriots!

SINECURES FOR FRIENDS.

Mr. Taillon, we have seen, had promised to not fill vacancies occurring in the public service, except in cases of absolute necessity.

That promise was broken like the others.

Here is a list of the lucky mortals who were appointed permanent employees of the Civil Service from 16th January to 22nd May, 1897 :

January 16—Pierre S. Laprise.
February 15—Geo. B. du Tremblay.
February 23—H. C. de Puyjalon.
February 25—J. A. Rouleau.
March 9—Edmond Lortie.
March 9—Arthur Dionne.
March 10—Fred. S. Lee.
March 26—Alex. Taché.
April 17—William Sumner.
April 24—P. Thomas Ahern.
May 15—Alfred Lacasse.
May 15—Charles Côté.
May 15—Georges Rochette.
May 15—J. Alph. Lefebvre.
May 15—T. A. Beaudouin.
May 15—E. Rodier.
May 19—J. E. Leclerc.
May 19—Arthur Marcotte.
May 19—Stanislas Dionne.
May 19—Eugène Caron.
May 19—C. J. Knight.
May 19—E. F. Joncas.

(See Sessional Paper No. 15, session of 1897).

As may be seen, they were certainly going it pretty strong. And we are not speaking either of promotions, of increases of salaries, or of appointments of supernumerary employees.

MR. CHAPAIS' GREAT THINGS.

COLONIZATION.

At a meeting held at Three Rivers on the 28th June, 1907, Mr. Chapais said :

" From 1892 to 1897 the Conservatives endeavored to

set aright the chaos into which the Mercier regime had plunged the Province and they had already begun to work for the welfare of the country.

"From 1892 to 1897, agriculture had made giant strides through the encouragement of dairying and the establishment of farmers' clubs. They who came afterwards were but vulgar imitators, spoiling the plans conceived and already carried out by the Conservative party. We were about to do great things in connection with Colonization, with Public Instruction, but the instability of representative government frustrated our plans. We went out of power." (*La Presse*, 29th June, 1907. This report was drawn up by a Conservative well known in Montreal, Mr. Alban Germain.)

We have shown how the Conservatives fulfilled their promises; we have shown what considerable amounts were realized from the new taxes; we have shown the great profits and the pickings they allowed their friends, both great and small, to get; we will now show the *great things* which, according to Mr. Chapais, they were to do in connection with Colonization.

Mr. Chapais was Minister of Colonization from the beginning of January, 1897, until the day when the Flynn Cabinet resigned.

Assuredly it could not reasonably be exacted that Mr. Chapais should have done *great things* in such a short time. Nevertheless, truth compels us to say that Mr. Chapais had already begun to do *great things*.

This may be seen by the following extract from the Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly for 1903 (page 580).

"By Mr. Pelletier—1. Did Honorable Mr. Thomas Chapais, the Commissioner of Colonization and Mines, in the Flynn Government, prepare and cause to be approved by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, a list of distribution

of the \$100,000.00 which the Legislature had, during its session of 1896-97, voted for the work to be done on colonization roads during the year 1897-98?

2. If so, at what date was such list of distribution prepared and approved; what amount, according to such list, to be spent for visits and explorations and what amount was to be spent for colonization works in each of the following counties: Bagot, Maskinongé, Dorchester, Bellechasse, Wolfe, Bonaventure, Montmorency, Charlevoix, Laprairie, Shefford, St. Hyacinthe, Portneuf, and Levis?

" Answer by Honorable Mr. Devlin :

On the 17th April, 1897, the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, on the recommendation of Hon. Thomas Chapais, Commissioner of Colonization and Mines, approved a list of distribution of the \$100,000, which the Legislature had voted, during its session of 1896-97, for work to be done on colonization roads during the year 1897-98.

According to this list, the amount to be expended was as follows :

For visits and explorations, \$2,150.00.

For colonization works in Bagot.....	\$	200 00
" Maskinongé.....		Nothing
" Dorchester.....		3,000 00
" Bellechasse.....		200 00
" Wolfe.....		3,000 00
" Bonaventure.....		1,000 00
" Montmorency.....		1,000 00
" Charlevoix.....		500 00
" Laprairie.....		500 00
" Shefford.....		400 00
" St. Hyacinthe.....		200 00
" Portneuf.....		300 00
" Levis.....		150 00"

Thus, out of the \$100,000.00 voted for Colonization Roads, Mr. Chapais intended to devote \$23,150.00 to visits and explorations. Good Mr. Chapais was going to make a round of pastoral visits with that amount !

Thus, Mr. Chapais was to spend \$500.00 on Colonization Roads (1) in Laprairie, while he appropriated nothing to the county of Maskinongé.

Mr. Chapais was to spend \$3,000.00 in the county of Dorchester and only \$200.00 in Bellechasse.

Mr. Chapais was to spend \$3,000.00 in Wolfe and only \$1,000.00 in Bonaventure.

Was it because Laprairie, Dorchester and Wolfe were represented in the House by Conservatives? Or was it to punish the counties of Maskinongé, Bellechasse and Bonaventure for having elected Liberal members?

You spoke the truth at Three Rivers, Mr. Chapais, when you said *that you were to do great things* in connection with Colonization.

MR. BEAUBIEN'S GREAT WORKS.

THE AGRICULTURAL MACHINE

To hear the Conservative speech-makers, one would think that the dairy industry would not be in existence in this Province had not Mr. Angers perpetrated the *coup d'état* of the 16th December, 1901; had not Mr. Beaubien, as Mr. Mercier said, "jumped the fence then with his stallions."

Now the existence and prosperity of butter and cheese factories, prior to 1892, is a well-known and undeniable fact. Mr. Tellier himself said so on the 28th April, 1892, in moving the Address in answer to the Speech from the Throne. This is what he said :

"The progress made by the dairy industry in our Province for some years has attracted His Honor's special attention." (Debates of the Legislature, 1892, page 12).

By reading the Conservatives newspapers one would be

inclined to believe that Mr. Beaubien did a great deal for agricultural teaching.

Now, Mr. Arthur Sauvé, at present the manager of Mr. LeBlanc's organ *Le Canadien*, and a (prospective) Conservative candidate in the County of Two Mountains, published the following over his signature, in the *Nationaliste* of the 4th August, 1904 :

"Our Governments have manifested a fairly marked, if not always very enlightened, solicitude for agriculture. But they have *spent money uselessly*. Why, for instance, so many small agricultural schools in our Province?

"I have not forgotten the fact that, four years ago, because I showed *the meagre results obtained from such schools* and expressed my lack of confidence in them; because I asked for the abolition of those institutions and the foundation, in the centre of the Province, of a single agricultural college which should be the property of the State, thoroughly fitted out, organized and administered, everything was done to try and gag me."

The whole of Mr. Beaubien's work may be summed up as follows :

He opened and maintained schools which nobody attended, especially those of Compton and Roberval.

He had the schools visited by all the starvelings and grabbers of the Conservative party, among others by Senator Landry (see page 152 of the Public Accounts for 1896-97) and, of course, at the expense of the Province.

He spent his time roaming about the Province and making (?) grand speeches which he afterwards published at the expense of the Province.

Let us read the answers he gave in the House to certain questions put to him.

"Question—Has the Government bought or does it propose to buy for distribution or for other purposes of publicity, a certain number of copies of the speech of Hon. L. Beaubien, delivered at Nicolet on the 4th October last?

If so, how many copies and what price did the Government pay or does it propose to pay?"

"Answer by Hon. Mr. Beaubien:—*The Government proposes to buy a certain number of copies for distribution over and above the quantity received from Mr. Ayotte*

The number and cost are not yet established." (Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly, session of 1896-97, pages 191 and 192).

"Question—Has the Government received any copies of the speech delivered by Hon. Louis Beaubien at Nicolet on the 4th November, 1896, apart from the 2,000 copies received from Messrs. Ayotte & Co?

If so, how many and when?"

"Answer by Hon. Mr. Beaubien—Up to now the Gazette Printing Co., of Montreal, was to have sent to the Department 10,000 copies of the speech in English. The quantity has not yet been checked. Up to now the firm of E. Sénécal & Fils was to have sent 25,000 copies in French of the same speech. The quantity has not been checked." (Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly, session of 1896-97, page 354).

Thus Mr. Beaubien had 37,000 copies of that speech printed and distributed at the expense of the Province.

Now, that speech of Mr. Beaubien's was nothing but a political harangue to his electors.

This may be seen by the first sentence :

"Gentlemen, as I am in the presence here of representatives of the whole county of Nicolet, devoted friends with whom I have already gone through several contests, permit me to thank you very heartily for the firm support you have always given to and the devotedness you have always manifested for the Conservative party."

Such are the great things done by Mr. Beaubien.

Thus did Mr. Beaubien work for the advancement of Agriculture, that Mr. Beaubien whom Mr. LeBlanc, in a speech delivered at Three Rivers last summer, classes among "the men of high intellectual stature who have worked with a true ardor for the country."

SUMMARY OF THE WHOLE ADMINISTRATIVE MUDDLE

THE SITUATION IN 1907.

We have shown that the Conservatives broke all the promises they made. Let us now try to sum up the muddle they made from an administrative standpoint.

1. Excess of liabilities over assets:

On the 17th December, 1891.....	\$16,468,470 57
On the 26th May, 1897.....	24,394,691 08

Increase.....	<u>\$ 7,654,832 07</u>
---------------	------------------------

2. Funded debt:

On the 17th December, 1891.....	\$25,209,873 33
On the 26th May, 1897.....	34,225,747 42

Increase.....	<u>\$ 9,015,874 09</u>
---------------	------------------------

3. Loans from 1st July, 1892, to 26th May, 1897:

5 permanent.....	\$16,736,770 33
33 temporary.....	4,780,000 00

Total.....	<u>\$21,516,770 33</u>
------------	------------------------

Yearly average over \$4,303,354 06.

4. Revenue from new taxes:

From 1st July, 1892, to 26th May, 1897.....	\$ 2,306,991 15
---	-----------------

Yearly average over \$461,398.23.

5. Excess of total expenditure over total receipts (exclusive of loans and railway subsidies) :	
From 1st July, 1892, to 30th June, 1897.....	\$ 1,730,832 28
Yearly average, \$347,866.00.	
6. Total of such excess and of revenue from new taxes.....	
	\$ 4,046,323 48
Yearly average over \$809,264.68.	
7. Total receipts (exclusive of loans) :	
1892-93.....	\$ 4,467,278 21
1896-97.....	3,923,238 70
Decrease.....	\$ 544,039 51
	(say 12 per cent)
8. Total expenditure (exclusive of loans and railway subsidies) :	
1892-93.....	\$ 4,492,106 21
1896-97.....	5,288,469 38
Increase..	\$ 796,363 12
	(say 14 per cent)
9. Excess of total expenditure over total receipts (exclusive of loans and railway subsidies) :	
1892-93.....	\$ 24,828 00
1896-97.....	1,365,230 63
Increase.....	\$ 1,340,402 63
10. Ordinary revenue (including new taxes)	
1892-93.....	\$ 4,380,857 10
1896-97.....	3,874,966 22
Decrease.....	\$ 494,109 12
	(say 11 per cent.)
11. Ordinary expenditure :	
1896-97.....	4,685,450 42
1899-97.....	4,685,450 42
Increase.....	\$ 733,191 67
	(say 13 per cent.)

28
48
21
70
51
nt)

12. Excess, or deficit, of ordinary expenditure over ordinary revenue (including new taxes) :

1892-93—Surplus.....	\$	428,598	35
1896-97—Deficit.....		810,484	20

Difference.... .. \$ 1,239,082 55

13. Ordinary revenue (exclusive of new taxes) :

1892-93—Revenue....	\$4,380,857	10
Less new taxes....	520,207	26
Say..		\$3,860,649 84
1896-97—Revenue....	\$3,874,966	22
Less new taxes....	328,466	51
Say.....		3,546,499 71

Decrease.. .. 314,150 18
(say 8 per cent)

21
38
12
nt)

14. Excess of ordinary expenditure over ordinary revenue (exclusive of new taxes) :

1892-93—		
Expenditure..	\$3,952,258	75
Revenue..	3,860,649	84
Deficit..	\$	91,608 91

63
63
10
22
12
)

1896-97—		
Expenditure....	\$4,685,450	42
Revenue....	3,546,499	71
Deficit....	\$1,138,950	71

Increase.... .. \$1,047,341 80

42
42
87
)

15. Yearly interest payable on funded debt :

On 1st July, 1892....	\$1,168,589	51
On 1st July, 1897.....	1,414,982	32

Increase.. .. \$246,392 81
(say over 20 per cent)

(These figures will be found on page 465 of the Votes and Proceedings of the session of 1908).

16. Yearly interest receivable on the \$7,000,000.00 due by the Canadian Pacific :

On 1st July, 1892.....	\$350,000 00
On 1st July, 1897.....	283,500 00

Decrease.. .. .	\$66,500 00
-----------------	-------------

(say 19 per cent)

(These figures will be found on the same page of the Votes and Proceedings).

17. Revenue from taxes imposed in 1892 and abolished previous to the elections of 1897 :

1892-93.....	\$ 453,278 16
1893-94.....	368,582 65
1894-95.....	324,862 95
1895-96.....	281,490 69

Total	\$1,428,214 45
-------	----------------

Yearly average, \$357,053.61.

(Page 461, Votes and Proceedings, 1908).

Moreover, in the session of 1896-97, the Flynn Government, by the act for the conversion of the debt, burdened the ordinary budget with an additional sum of over \$20,000.00 for the creation of a sinking fund and with another sum of \$50,000.00 for additional grants to Public Instruction.

As the above data show, the financial situation was at its worst when the Marchand Government took the administration of affairs in hand.

Mr. Flynn, in his speech outlining his programme, at St. Jean Port Joli, said that the Mercier Government "had brought the Province to the verge of ruin." This may be judged by the condition of the affairs of the Province when he tendered his resignation on the 26th May, 1897.

And, since we are about to bid adieu to the disastrous regime of the "promisers," the "saviors," the "taxers," the "honest men," we may be permitted to exclaim: "Beware of the Conservatives! The actions of those men do not correspond to their words. 'The voice is that of Jacob, but the hands are those of Esau.'"

LIBERAL ADMINISTRATION

1897-1908

LIBERAL PROGRAMME OF 1907

The Liberals carried the electoral campaign of 1897 by promising the people if they were returned to power :

1. To strive above all to restore equilibrium in the finances ;
2. Not to increase the obligations of the province without sufficient revenues to meet the same ;
3. To not revive the taxes the Conservatives had imposed in 1892 and abolished on the eve of the general elections ;
4. To practise the strictest economy ;
5. To increase, within the measure of the financial resources, the votes for Agriculture, Colonization and Public Instruction, especially those for Public Instruction.

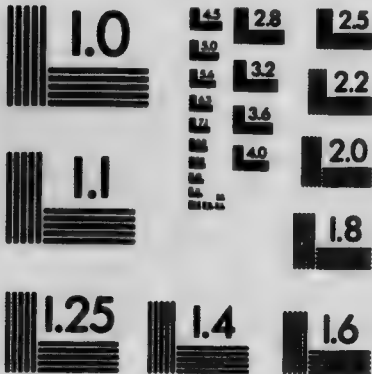
The Flynn Cabinet was crushed at the polls, and on the 26th May, 1897, was replaced by the Marchand Government.

The task of placing the finances on a sound footing was not an easy one, Mr. Marchand set resolutely to work and had already succeeded in restoring equilibrium when death snatched him away from the affection of his friends, from love of his party, from love of his province. Let us record, in passing, the elogium pronounced by one of Mr. LeBlanc's principal lieutenants, Mr. Maréchal, on the lamented Liberal leader, at the meeting held at Three Rivers on the 28th June, 1907 :



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"I do homage to the respected memory of that good patriot who devoted fifty years of his life to provincial affairs, and who after occupying the highest position a political man can attain in our province, died without leaving any fortune to his heirs. He left them something more precious: the remembrance of an honorable and honest life, devoted entirely to his country'" (La Patrie, 29th June, 1907.)

On the 30th October, 1900, Mr. Parent succeeded Mr. Marchand, and, on the 14th November following, he decided to ask the electors to give him the confidence they had placed in Mr. Marchand.

The election of 1900 was a brilliant victory for the Parent Government.

The latter continued, perseveringly, the work begun by the Marchand Cabinet, and in November, 1904, when it appealed to the people, the latter again expressed their confidence in it by electing sixty-eight Liberals out of seventy-four members.

On the 21st March, 1905, Mr. Parent resigned, and the leader of the present Government, Mr. Gouin, became Prime Minister of the Province on the 23rd of the same month.

PROGRAMME OF THE GOUIN GOVERNMENT

As Mr. Gouin had to be re-elected in his county, he took the opportunity to let the programme of his Government known.

As Mr. Gouin said at the beginning of his address on the 5th of April, 1905, that programme is an amplification of that of 1897.

It may be summed up as follows:

Equilibrium between expenditure and receipts;

Economy in expenditure ;

Vigilance in the collection of revenue ;

Increase of receipts by the imposition of a tax on stock exchange transactions, by vigilant administration of public domain, and by the readjustment of the Federal subsidy.

Division of the duties of the Minister of Lands, Mines and Fisheries ;

Development of primary education ;

Foundation of new Normal Schools ;

Encouraging the raising of teachers' salaries.

Establishment of technical schools ;

Establishment of schools for higher commercial studies ;

Development of agricultural instruction ;

Improvement of rural roads ;

Encouragement of colonization ;

Creation of new colonization reserves ;

Aid to colonization railways

Protection of workmen in factories ;

The passing of an act respecting accidents to workmen.

Respect for autonomy of municipalities ;

That programme was received with the liveliest sympathy by the whole Province.

"La Patrie," in an editorial of the 6th April, 1905, had the following :

"These reforms are numerous—perhaps too numerous for the Government ever to accomplish one-half of them. But they reveal a serious study of the needs of the province, and they all merit discussion. They cover the whole field of provincial administration, public instruction, agriculture, colonization, finance, etc. It is certain that on all these points there is room for improvement, and that some of the projects of Mr. Gouin are of the highest importance. The new Ministry propose to administer with prudence and avoid the criticism of the past. Now, if there is a public service that has been subjected to just criticism, it is that of colonization and lands.. Mr. Gouin is of the opinion that the great fault of the past was not the selling of our forest domains, but the leaving unexploited of the limits that were sold. A larger liberty to settlers, and greater vigilance in the collection of

stampage dues are the remedies he suggests. The Government also promises to give serious attention to public instruction, and everybody knows it will not be without need. The creation of new normal schools, to form teaching staffs, the creation of technical schools, of high commercial schools, the better treatment of teachers—such are some of the fine projects of Mr. Gouin. To improve provincial finances, Mr. Gouin proposes various means. He asks, first of all, for the re-adjustment of the Federal subsidies as an act of Justice, but above all, he proposes a new source of revenue, the establishment of which we presume, will not be accomplished *without some difficulty*, namely, the taxation of Stock Exchange transactions. Finally Mr. Gouin has touched upon many other points, which the readers will find in the full report of yesterday's meeting, among others the leasing of water powers, the guaranteeing of municipal autonomy, the improvement of rural roads, the creation of a large agricultural college, etc., etc. *If the Government of Mr. Gouin realizes all these fine projects his most bitter adversaries will be unable not to pardon him his elevation to the position of Prime Minister. But while waiting for him to get to work, we may congratulate him, because he has not been afraid to set himself a great task.*

This programme was fully approved by the Conservative leaders.

A pic-nic was held on the 19th August, 1905, at St. Timothée, county of Beauharnois, at which Messrs. Bergeron and Monk were present. Speeches were delivered, as is always the case at political gatherings. Now, this is what those gentlemen said :

"In conclusion Mr. Bergeron told his audience from what standpoint the possible upraising of the Province of Quebec and its restoration to its proper place in the Confederation should be contemplated. *Less party spirit everywhere*, he said, but above all in *our provincial affairs*. Let us unite together to make our beloved province great, fine and prosperous. *If Hon. Mr. Gouin, who now commands the support of the immense majority of the provincial members, frankly*

and energetically strives to carry out the PATRIOTIC PROGRAMME he has laid down, I am prepared to give him my modest support."

Mr. Monk desired, above all, the maintenance of the honor the sacred rights, of the prestige of his province for the general progress of Confederation. *Like Mr. Bergeron, he was disposed to act with Mr. Gouin or with any other patriot who would sincerely labor for that work of upraising the province. He laid stress upon the importance of perfecting and still further completing our system of Public Instruction already so effective. He advocated technical schools, good roads, the encouragement of agriculture, colonization, etc.* ("La Patrie," 21st August, 1905).

THE LIBERALS KEEP THEIR WORD

Contrary to what the Conservatives did from 1892 to 1897, the Liberals conscientiously and honorably kept the promises they had given to the electors.

As we shall show, the official documents establish that Mr. Marchand's programme, that Mr. Gouin's programme, have been followed to the letter.

EQUILIBRIUM RESTORED IN THE FINANCES

E Increasing Surpluses

Mr. Marchand promised to strive above all to restore equilibrium in our finances. Well, not only have the Liberal Government striven to restore such equilibrium, but they have completely succeeded in doing so.

This may be seen by the following tables :

STATEMENT of ordinary revenue and ordinary expenditure.

(See page 442 of the Votes and Proceedings of the session of 1908.)

Year.	Ordinary Revenue.	Ordinary Expenditure.
1897-98....	\$4,177,656.35	\$4,364,686.68
1898-99....	4,223,579.43	4,189,964.10
1899-00....	4,451,578.29	4,428,385.72
1900-01....	4,563,432.18	4,492,092.44
1901-02....	4,515,169.88	4,470,332.15
1902-03....	4,699,772.87	4,530,616.88
1903-04....	4,880,686.54	4,744,969.24
1904-05....	5,039,001.07	4,937,882.77
1905-06....	5,340,166.88	5,012,417.74
1906-07....	5,270,594.74	4,691,250.42
		
Totals.....	\$47,161,638.23	\$45,862,598.14

Surplus of revenue, \$1,299,040.00.

STATEMENT of total receipts and total expenditures (exclusive of loans and railway subsidies)

(See page 572 of the Votes and Proceedings, session of 1908).

Year ending 30th June	Receipts.	Expenditures
1898	\$4,236,015.14	\$4,686,517.34
1899	4,249,589.99	4,334,041.18
1900	4,502,445.83	4,498,905.36
1901	4,745,190.47	4,561,656.73
1902	4,601,029.81	4,573,770.66
1903	4,778,129.08	4,702,629.88
1904	4,995,118.26	4,892,012.74
1905	5,149,358.77	5,112,292.29
1906	5,436,734.14	5,255,981.40
1907	5,326,007.59	4,793,044.89
		
Totals	\$48,019,619.08	\$47,410,852.47

Surplus of receipts, \$608,766.61.

SURPLUSES OR DEFICITS of ordinary revenue over ordinary expenditure.

Year	Surplus.	Deficit
1897-98		\$187,030.33
1898-99.....	33,615 33	
1899-1900	23,192.57	
1900-01	71,339.74	
1901-02	44,837.73	
1902-03	169,155.99	
1903-04	135,717.30	
1904-05	101,118.30	
1905-06	327,749.14	
1906-07	579,344.32	
Surpluses	\$1,486,070.42	\$ 187,030.33
Deficit	187,030.33	
Total surplus	\$1,299,040.09	
Yearly average ..	129,904.00	

SURPLUSES OR DEFICITS of total receipts over total expenditure (exclusive of loans and railway subsidies).

Year.	Surpluses	Deficits.
1897-98		\$450,502.20
1898-99		84,451.10
1899-1900	\$ 3,540.47	
1900-01	183,533.74	
1901-02	27,259.15	
1902-03	75,499.20	
1903-04	103,105.52	
1904-05	37,066.48	
1905-06	160,752.74	
1906-07	532,962.70	
Surpluses.....	\$1,143,720.00	\$534,953.39
Deficits	534,953.39	
Total surplus	\$608,766.61	
Yearly average..	\$ 50,876.66	

Of course, the Conservatives hardly find these tables to their taste and do everything they can to demolish these official figures.

They say to the Liberals: "You have swelled your budgets by selling limits and increasing the taxes. Had you not collected so much money by selling limits and by statutes imposing taxes, there would have been deficits."

This is nonsense and juggling of politicians at bay.

Mr. Marchand promised to not impose fresh taxes; Mr. Gouin promised to not revive the taxes of 1892 which the Conservatives had abolished before leaving power, but they never promised to not collect more than the Conservatives collected in 1897 under existing tax statutes. Far from it; they both promised to carefully see to the collection of all amounts that might become due under such statutes. Do the Conservatives, who suspended the collection of taxes during the electoral campaign of 1897, want the present Government to do as they did? If such be their policy, let them say so.

The Liberal Governments also leased certain areas of our forest domain. But did our leaders ever promise that they would not grant such leases? Did not the Conservatives grant some themselves? And when they sold timber limits, did they not always look upon the price of the same as ordinary receipts? Did they not even put up limits for sale with the sole view of balancing their receipts and expenditure? Read what Mr. Chapais wrote in 1893 and Mr. Nantel in 1897:

"On the whole, the sale of the month of December (1892) has been satisfactory. It was prudently and ably carried out and has brought into the Treasury receipts of over \$80,000.00 which are not to be disdained. ("Courrier du Canada, 18th January, 1893.)

"By Mr. Lafontaine (Berthier)—1. When the Commissioner of Lands, Forests and Fisheries, Mr. G. A. Nantel, gave instructions to advertise a sale of limits for the 15th June, 1897, did he at the same time give the reasons in writing for which he deemed such sale necessary?

2. If so, what reasons did he allege?

"Answer by Honorable Mr. Turgeon :

Mr. Nantel authorized the advertising of that sale in writing on the 14th May, 1897. That writing contained the following passage : "*I consider the sale necessarys 1. To meet the provisions of the estimates ; 2. Because the territory is asked for by the trade ; because the limits are exposed to fire and it is a prudent policy to have them protected at the same time by the Government and by the grantees.*" (Votes and Proceedings of the session of 1908, page 630.)

If the Gouin Government succeeded in balancing receipts and expenditure in 1905-06 and in 1906-07, it was not by selling limits. In fact the sale of 1906 brought in \$253,545.00 and the surplus of the ordinary budget of 1905-06 is \$327,749.14.

In 1907, not a single limit was sold and the surplus of the ordinary budget is \$579,344.32.

A surplus of \$579,344.32 ! And not a cent of the additional Federal subsidy was touched !

And we are promised a surplus of \$1,000,000.00 for the 30th June, 1908 !

How far we are from the days of 1897 when the ordinary budget showed a deficit of \$810,000.00.

Have not the Liberals kept their promises?

THE LIBERALS REDUCE THE PUBLIC DEBT

Mr. Marchand promised in 1897 to not contract fresh obligations without having sufficient revenue to meet them.

That promise has been kept. And not only have the Liberals not increased the public debt, but they have even reduced it, as may be seen by the following official statements, the accuracy whereof may be verified by referring to page 509 of the Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly of the session of 1908).

STATEMENT of Assets and Liabilities on 26th May, 1897.

LIABILITIES

Funded debt.....	\$34,225,747 42
Trust deposits.....	281,468 26
Railway guarantee deposits.....	595,227 53
Outstanding warrants.....	21,955 71
Balance due on construction of Q. M. O. & O. railway.....	25,000 00
Loss on Exchange Bank deposit.....	25,218 75
Quebec Court House bonds.....	200,000 00
Total liabilities.....	\$35,374,617 67

ASSETS

Price of sale of Q. M. O. & O. Railway.....	\$ 7,600,000 00
Grants to railways under Dominion Act 47 Vict., chap. 8.....	2,394,000 00
Cash in banks.....	789,328 54
Cost of Jacques Cartier Normal School.....	6,153 60
Claim against Hon. T. McGreevy.....	100,000 00
Advances to various parties.....	161,832 89
Quebec Court House tax.....	200,000 00
Total assets.....	\$11,251,315 03

RECAPITULATION

Total liabilities on 26th May, 1897.....	\$85,374,617 67
“ assets on 26th May, 1897....	11,251,315 03
Excess of liabilities over assets.....	\$24,123,302 64

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES ON 8th April, 1908.

LIABILITIES

Funded debt.....	\$28,604,053 48
Trust deposits.....	484,734 33
Outstanding warrants....	22,476 00
Balance due on construction of Q. M. O. & O. Railway.....	25,000 00
Loss on Exchange Bank deposit.....	25,218 75
Quebec Court House Bonds....	122,200 00
Sherbrooke Court House bonds....	60,000 00
Balance due on account with the Dominion, established in 1903.....	1,473,609 63
Total liabilities....	\$30,817,292 19

ASSETS

Balance of price of sale of Q. M. O. & O. Rail- way.....	\$ 1,048,880 00
Sinking fund (created since 1897)....	262,504 47
Railway grants under Dominion act 47 Vict., chap. 8....	2,394,000 00
Cash in Banks.....	1,195,509 78
Cost of Jacques Cartier Normal School.	5,000 00
Claim against Hon. T. McGreevy....	100,000 00
Advances to various parties.....	127,437 29
Quebec Court House tax....	122,200 00
Sherbrooke Court House tax....	60,000 00
Trust funds and Common School fund in the hands of the Dominion....	1,527,832 97
Total assets....	\$ 6,843,364 51

RECAPITULATION

Total liabilities on 8th April, 1908.....	\$30,817,292 19
" Assets on 8th April, 1908.....	6,843,364 51

Excess of liabilities over assets on 8th April, 1908.....	\$23,973,927 68
--	-----------------

Let us now compare the excesses of liabilities over assets.

On the 26th May, 1897.....	\$24,123,302 64
" " 8th April, 1908.....	23,973,927 68

Decrease.....	\$ 149,374 96
---------------	---------------

But the decrease would have been much greater had not the Flynn Government had the act passed for the conversion of the funded debt.

The operation of conversion consists in redeeming bonds bearing interest at 4 or 5 per cent and replacing them by others bearing 3 per cent.

Now, it is impossible to redeem a bond bearing interest at 4 or 5 per cent with a bond bearing 3 per cent. The holders of the old bonds would never consent to it. It is absolutely necessary to add something. The result is that the funded debt is increased by the conversion of the old bonds. Mr. Atwater admitted it in the Legislative Assembly on the 9th February, 1899.

Speaking of the conversion of the debt, he said :

"The Honorable Treasurer never fails to recall that *the debt was increased by such conversion*. I have never denied it, and my friends never denied it either when we submitted that measure." (Page 20 of the pamphlet.)

Now, if we turn to page 509 of the Votes and Proceed-

ings, session of 1902, we find that the increase of the liabilities by the conversion of the Funded Debt, has been as follows since 1897 :

1897-98.....	174,495.45
1898-99.....	915,280.86
1899-1900.....	10,729.04
1900-01.....	10,817.37
1901-02.....	1,823.11
1902-03.....	4,720.59
Total.....	\$1,117,875.42

Without the conversion of the debt, effected under the Flynn act, the decrease in the liabilities in the public debt of the Province between the 26th May, 1897, and the 8th April, 1908, would have been....\$ 149,374.96
 Plus..... 1,117,875.42
 \$1,267,250.38

And yet the Government has paid, since the 1st July, 1897, the following amounts which are not taken into accounts in the above statements of Liabilities and Assets :

THE RAILWAY SUBSIDIES

1897-98.....	\$203,645.14
1898-99.....	105,079.19
1899-1900.....	95,276.22
1900-01.....	133,318.10
1901-02.....	78,419.27
1902-03.....	43,500.00
1903-04.....	125,090.33
1904-05.....	155,143.47
1905-06.....	80,750.00
1906-07.....	43,779.61
1907-08.....	45,808.31
Total subsidies:.....	\$1,109,809.64

For Public Buildings and Works (extraordinary) :

1897-98.....	\$50,683.70
1898-99.....	11,059.11
1899-1900.....	5,000.00
1900-01.....	24,165.18
1901-02.....	20,345.17
1902-03.....	65,443.77
1903-04.....	50,500.00
1904-05.....	52,023.18
1905-06.....	167,399.81
1906-07.....	73,593.92

Total for extraordinary Public Works.....	520,214.84
Total for subsidies and extraordinary Public Works.....	\$1,630,024.48

What a difference between the Liberal regime and the Conservative one that preceded it.

THE LIBERALS AND THE TAXES

According to their promises, they have not revived those of 1892, abolished previous to 1897

Mr. Marchand promised to not impose fresh taxes and Mr. Gouin to not revive the taxes of 1892 abolished previous to 1897.

Those promises have been kept whatever Messrs. Chapais, LeBlanc and Tellier may say to the contrary.

The Conservatives allege that the Liberal party promised, in 1897, to govern without taxes and that, since then, it has applied itself from year to year to create fresh taxes and to increase those already existing in 1897. Mr. Tellier even moved a vote of censure in the House, on the 24th April, 1908, containing the following assertions:

"This House is prepared to vote the Supplies to His Majesty, but regrets that the Liberal party should have, for

over ten years it has been in power, ignored the promises made by it to the electorate of this Province to govern *without taxation* and that, instead of practising economy, it should, on the contrary, from year to year, have devoted its efforts to *establishing fresh taxes and increasing those existing in 1897.*" (Page 598 of the Votes and Proceedings.)

We shall show how frivolous are these assertions.

And in the first place it is untrue that the Liberal party promised, in 1897, to govern without taxes. Mr. LeBlanc, Mr. Tellier himself, acknowledged it by voting on the 26th March, 1908, for a motion of Mr. Bernard which contains the following passage :

"That,—notwithstanding the formal pledge contained in the Budget Speech of the late Honorable Mr. Marchand of the 7th February, 1899, which pledge reads as follows : "On coming into power, the present Government had been entrusted with a mandate enjoining it to devote itself above all to restore equilibrium in our finances by reducing the expenditure through economy and by increasing the revenue *without imposing fresh taxes.*" (Page 237 of the Votes and Proceedings.)

Thus, Mr. Marchand had promised, not to *govern without taxes*, but to increase the revenue *without imposing fresh taxes*, which is not the same thing. And Mr. Marchand kept his word.

Mr. Gouin in the speech outlining his programme which he delivered in Montreal on the 5th April, 1905, said :

"There can be no question of *reviving the taxes of 1892*. The electors will not have it and they showed it in a very express manner by their verdict in 1897."

"There is one tax, however, which seems to be demanded by the popular wish and which would be a great help to our Treasury; the tax on Stock Exchange transactions. The thing is practicable; it exists in several coun-

tries in Europe. Will the Government have that tax enacted Suffice it to tell you that it is studying that important question."

Has the Gouin Government revived the taxes of 1892 abolished previous to 1897? No.

As it had given it to be understood, it at once had a tax enacted on Stock Exchange transactions. Did the Conservative party ever protest against the imposition of that tax? Did it ever promise to have it removed? Far from it; Conservative leaders of such authority as Messrs. Monk and Bergeron said that Mr. Gouin's programme was a *patriotic programme*.

The Government also had an act passed requiring owners and chauffeurs of automobiles to have a license in future for driving those vehicles over the roads of the Province. But that obligation has been imposed, not for the purpose of increasing the revenue—those licenses bring in less than \$3,000 a year—but to better protect the public against the chauffeurs' excesses. Once more, is the Conservative party opposed to that measure?

THEY HAVE NOT INCREASED EXISTING TAXES

But, have the Liberals increased the taxes that existed when they came into power? "Yes," replies the chorus of Conservative speech-makers and journalists." The increase in the receipts arising from those sources of revenue proves it."

Our opponents are confounding two very different things together: the rate of the taxes and the revenue from the taxes.

It is not surprising that the revenue from the taxes should have increased. The present Government is watch-

ing carefully to see that all sums due are paid, while in 1897, they neglected, as we have shown, to collect what was owing.

There is nothing surprising in the fact that the revenues from the tax on commercial corporations and from succession duties should have increased since 1897. Mr. Taillon predicted such increase in his Budget Speech before the Legislative Assembly on the 26th November, 1895:

"From the tax on commercial corporations a revenue of \$140,000.00 was expected. It yielded \$20,756.16 more than the estimated figure. *The revenue from this source should increase in the future in proportion to the development of wealth in our Province.*.....

"*As to the tax on successions.....the revenue from this tax will increase from year to year*" (pages 4 and 5).

On the other hand, Mr. Atwater, in his Budget Speech of the 9th December, 1896, (page 33) said:

"The succession duty tax is now almost universally adopted by civilized states, and the *history of its application is that it is a growing one.* It is in the very nature of things that it should. As a country grows, money will accumulate and fortunes increase. The modest competence of to-day was a fortune not so very many years ago, and, as this is being constantly transmitted by death, the revenue of the State from this source *must grow proportionately.*"

Is it necessary to lay stress on the development of wealth and on the progress of trade and industry in our Province within the past decade?

The contributions that municipalities are called upon to pay for the care and maintenance of the insane in asylums and of juvenile offenders in reformatory and industrial schools are heavier than in 1897.

But the law has not been changed; the municipalities contribute one-half as in 1897 and if the amounts they pay are higher, it is merely because there are more patients in the asylums and more children in reformatory institutions. Can the Government be blamed for this?

TAXES ON SUCCESSIONS

But there is still more. Not only are succession duties not heavier now than in 1897; the Gouin Government has even lightened the burden.

That tax was imposed in 1892, by the following act:

“ 1191b All transmissions, owing to death, of the property in usufruct, or enjoyment of, moveable and immoveable property in the Province, shall be liable to the following taxes calculated upon the net value of the property transmitted :

1. In the direct line, ascending or descending, between consorts.... 1 p.c.
excepting in estates, the total value of which, after payment of all debts and expenses, does not exceed the sum of \$10,000.00.
2. In the collateral line :
 - (a) If the succession devolves to the brother or sister or descendant of the brother or sister of the deceased.... 3 p.c.
 - (b) If the succession devolves to the brother or sister, or descendant of the brother or sister, of the grand parents of the deceased.... 6 p.c.
 - (c) If the succession devolves to any other collateral.... 8 p.c.
3. If the succession devolves to a stranger.... 10 p.c.
(55-56 Vict., cap. 17)

In 1894, that act of 1892 was replaced by the following :

" 1191b. All transmissions, owing to death, of the property in, usufruct or enjoyment of moveable and immoveable property in the Province, shall be liable to the following taxes, calculated upon the value of the property transmitted, after deducting debts and charges existing at the time of the death :

1. In the direct line, ascending or descending between consorts; between father- or mother-in-law and son- or daughter-in-law :

In estates, the value of which, after deducting the debts and charges existing at the time of the death,—

- (a) Does not exceed the sum of three thousand dollars, no tax shall be exigible.
 - (b) Exceeds three thousand dollars, but does not exceed five thousand dollars, on every hundred dollars of value over three thousand dollars..... $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.
 - (c) Exceeds five thousand dollars, but does not exceed ten thousand dollars, on every hundred dollars of value over three thousand dollars..... 1 p.c.
 - (d) Exceeds ten thousand dollars, but does not exceed fifty thousand dollars, on every hundred dollars of value over three thousand dollars..... $1\frac{1}{4}$ p.c.
 - (e) Exceeds fifty thousand dollars, but does not exceed one hundred thousand dollars, on every hundred dollars of value over three thousand dollars..... $1\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.
 - (f) Exceeds one hundred thousand dollars, but does not exceed two hundred thousand dollars, on every hundred dollars of value over three thousand dollars..... 2 p.c.
 - (g) Exceeds two hundred thousand dollars, on every hundred dollars of value over three thousand dollars..... 3 p.c.
2. In the collateral line :
- (a) If the succession devolves to the brother or sister, or descendant of the brother or sister of the deceased.... 3 p.c.

- (b) If the succession devolves to the descendant of a brother or sister of the father or mother of the deceased.... 5 p.c.
 - (c) If the succession devolves to the brother or sister or descendant of the brother or sister of the grand parents of the deceased..... 6 p.c.
 - (d) If the succession devolves to any other collateral.... 8 p.c.
 - 3. If the succession devolves to a stranger.... 10 p.c.
- (57 Vict., cap. 17).

The act of 1894 remained in force, with slight amendments, until 1906, when the Gouin Government replaced it by the following :

"1191b. All transmissions, owing to death, of the property in, or the usufruct or enjoyment of, moveable and immoveable property in the Province, shall be liable to the following taxes, calculated upon the value of the property transmitted, after deducting debts and charges existing at the time of the death :

1. In the direct line, ascending or descending ; between consorts ; between father- or mother-in-law and son- or daughter-in-law :

In estates the value of which, after deducting the debts and charges existing at the time of the death :

- a. Does not exceed the sum of five thousand dollars, no tax shall be exigible.
- b. Exceeds five thousand dollars, but does not exceed ten thousand dollars, on every hundred dollars of value over five thousand dollars.... 1 p.c.
- c. Exceeds ten thousand dollars, but does not exceed fifty thousand dollars, on every hundred dollars of value over five thousand dollars.... 1 1/4 p.c.

- d. Exceeds fifty thousand dollars, but does not exceed seventy-five thousand dollars, on every hundred dollars of value over five thousand dollars.... 1½ p.c.
- e. Exceeds seventy-five thousand dollars, but does not exceed one hundred thousand dollars, on every hundred dollars of value over five thousand dollars.... 2 p.c.
- f. Exceeds one hundred thousand dollars, but does not exceed one hundred and fifty thousand dollars, on every hundred dollars of value over five thousand dollars.... 3 p.c.
- g. Exceeds one hundred and fifty thousand dollars, but does not exceed two hundred thousand dollars, on every hundred dollars of value over five thousand dollars.... 4 p.c.
- h. Exceeds two hundred thousand dollars, on every hundred dollars of value over five thousand dollars.... 5 p.c.

For the purposes of clauses *a*, *b*, *c*, *d*, *e*, *f*, *g* and *h*, the sum of five thousand dollars, therein mentioned, is to be deducted out of the whole estate, and not out of the share of each beneficiary.

Provided that where the value of any estate, as defined in the first paragraph of this article, exceeds one hundred thousand dollars, and the amount passing in manner aforesaid to any one person mentioned in paragraph 1 of this article, exceeds the amount hereafter mentioned, a further duty shall be paid on the amount so passing in addition to the rates mentioned in clauses *a*, *b*, *c*, *d*, *e*, *f*, *g* and *h* of this article, as follows :

- a. Where the whole amount so passing to one person exceeds one hundred thousand dollars, but does not exceed two hundred thousand dollars.... 1 p.c.
- b. Exceeds two hundred thousand dollars, but does not exceed four hundred thousand dollars.... 1½ p.c.

- c. Exceeds four hundred thousand dollars, but does not exceed six hundred thousand dollars.... 2 p.c.
- d. Exceeds six hundred thousand dollars, but does not exceed eight hundred thousand dollars.... $2\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.
- e. Exceeds eight hundred thousand dollars.... 3 p.c.
- 2. In the collateral line:
 - a. If the succession devolves to the brother or sister, or descendant of the brother or sister of the deceased:
 - If it does not exceed ten thousand dollars. 5 p.c.
 - If it exceeds ten thousand dollars.... $5\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.
 - b. If the succession devolves to the brother or sister, or descendant of a brother or sister of the father or mother of the deceased:
 - If it does not exceed ten thousand dollars. 6 p.c.
 - If it exceeds ten thousand dollars.... $6\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.
 - c. If the succession devolves to the brother or sister or descendant of the brother or sister of the grand-parents of the deceased:
 - If it does not exceed ten thousand dollars.. 7 p.c.
 - If it exceeds ten thousand dollars.. $7\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.
 - d. If the succession devolves to any other collateral:
 - If it does not exceed ten thousand dollars.. 8 p.c.
 - If it exceeds ten thousand dollars.... 9 p.c.
- 3. If the succession devolves to a stranger.... 10 p.c.

Provided that where the value of any dutiable property exceeds fifty thousand dollars and the amount passing in manner aforesaid to any person in the collateral line or to any one stranger, exceeds the amount hereinafter mentioned, a further duty shall be paid on the amount so passing, in addition to the duty mentioned in this paragraph and in clauses a, b, c and d of paragraph 2:

- a. Where the whole amount so passing to one person exceeds fifty thousand dollars, but does not exceed one hundred thousand dollars.... 1 p.c.

- b. Exceeds one hundred thousand dollars, but does not exceed one hundred and fifty thousand dollars.... $1\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.
- c. Exceeds one hundred and fifty thousand dollars, but does not exceed two hundred thousand dollars.... 2 p.c.
- d. Exceeds two hundred thousand dollars, but does not exceed two hundred and fifty thousand dollars.... $2\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.
- e. Exceeds two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, but does not exceed three hundred thousand dollars.... 3 p.c.
- f. Exceeds three hundred thousand dollars, but does not exceed three hundred and fifty thousand dollars.... $3\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.
- g. Exceeds three hundred and fifty thousand dollars, but does not exceed four hundred thousand dollars.... 4 p.c.
- h. Exceeds four hundred thousand dollars, but does not exceed four hundred and fifty thousand dollars.... $4\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.
- i. Exceeds four hundred and fifty thousand dollars.... 5 p.c.
- (6 Ed. VII, cap. 11.)

The act of 1906 has hardly been changed since it was passed.

Thus, under the act of 1892, every succession in the direct line or between consorts was free of duty if the amount did not exceed \$10,000.00 and it paid one per cent if over \$10,000.00.

It was soon found that most of the successions are inconsiderable and are transmitted in the direct line or between consorts; in 1892-93 the tax brought in only \$40,313.59. For that reason the Taillon Government had the act of 1894 passed.

By that act an effort was made to reach successions in

the direct line or between consorts. The exemption was lowered from \$10,000.00 to \$3,000.00 and instead of imposing a uniform duty of one per cent on successions in the direct line or between consorts, exceeding \$10,000.00, they were taxed with a duty varying from between $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent and 3 per cent according to their amount, all under \$3,000.00 being exempt in any case.

The "taxers" attained their end, for the tax on successions which had brought in \$40,313.00 in 1892-93, brought in \$229,441.00 in 1896-97.

In 1906 the Government re-adjusted the tax on successions on a more equitable basis.

It exempted from the tax all legacies to religious, charitable or religious institutions.

In all successions in the direct line or between consorts, the amount exempted was increased from \$3,000.00 to \$5,000.00. There was also a reduction in the tax on successions not exceeding \$75,000 and an increase on those over \$75,000.00. Those on successions in the collateral line were also increased.

If anybody wishes to know how the three methods of taxation of 1892, 1894 and 1906, work out in practice, he has only to look at the following table:

Direct line
and
between consorts

Direct line and between consorts,
or between father or mother-in-
law and son or daughter-in-law.

On a succession of	Duties imposed by the act of 1892.	Duties imposed by the act of 1894.	Duties imposed by the act of 1906.
\$ 3,000....\$	None....\$	None....\$	None
3,500....	None....	2.50....	None
4,000....	None....	5.00....	None
4,500....	None....	7.50....	None
5,000....	None....	10.00....	None
5,500....	None....	25.00....	5.00
6,000....	None....	30.00....	10.00
6,500....	None....	35.00....	15.00
7,000....	None....	40.00....	20.00
7,500....	None....	45.00....	25.00
8,000....	None....	50.00....	30.00
8,500....	None....	55.00....	35.00
9,000....	None....	60.00....	40.00
9,500....	None....	65.00....	45.00
10,000....	None....	70.00....	50.00
11,000....	110.00....	100.00....	75.00
12,000....	120.00....	112.50....	87.50
13,000....	130.00....	125.00....	100.00
14,000....	140.00....	137.50....	112.50
15,000....	150.00....	150.00....	125.00
20,000....	200.00....	212.50....	187.50
25,000....	250.00....	275.00....	250.00
30,000....	300.00....	337.50....	312.50
35,000....	350.00....	400.00....	375.00
40,000....	400.00....	462.50....	437.50
45,000....	450.00....	525.00....	500.00
50,000....	500.00....	587.50....	532.50
55,000....	550.00....	780.00....	750.00
60,000....	600.00....	855.00....	825.00
65,000....	650.00....	930.00....	900.00
70,000....	700.00....	1,005.00....	975.00
75,000....	750.00....	1,080.00....	1,050.00
80,000....	800.00....	1,155.00....	1,500.00
85,000....	850.00....	1,230.00....	1,600.00
90,000....	900.00....	1,35.00....	1,700.00
95,000....	950.00....	1,380.00....	1,800.00

100,000....	1,000.00....	1,455.00....	1,900.00
125,000....	1,250.0....	2,940.00....	4,850.00
150,000....	1,500.00....	2,940.0....	4,850.00
175,000....	1,750.00....	3,440.0....	6,800.00
200,000....	2,000.00....	3,940.00....	7,800.00
250,000....	2,500.00....	7,410.00....	12,250.00
300,000....	3,000.00....	8,910.00....	14,750.00

If anybody wishes to have an idea of the relief afforded to poor people by the act of 1906, he may judge of it by the following statement furnished us by the Comptroller of Revenue.

Total number of successions opened :

1896-97.....	2852
1906-07.....	4972

Increase.... 2120 say 74 per cent.

Number of successions affected by the duty :

1896-97.....	957
1906-07.. ..	968

Increase.... 11 say 1 per cent.

Number of successions not affected by the duty :

1896-97.....	1895
1906-07.....	4004

Increase.... 2109 say 111 per cent.

Who are the "taxers"?

And it should be observed that in these statistics no account is taken of successions completely exempt from the tax, that is to say, under \$5,000.00. Now, as we have shown, successions over \$5,000.00, but not exceeding \$7,500.00, pay less taxes at present than in 1897. This may be

seen by the amounts that would have been collected in 1907 from small successions, had the system of 1894 been in force.

Are the electors prepared to return to the system of 1894?

TAXES IN ONTARIO AND QUEBEC

The Conservative speechmakers and newspapers award great praise to the Whitney Government in Ontario.

It is not inopportune to compare the amounts collected last year in each of the two provinces under the Acts imposing taxes on successions, commercial corporations, etc. :

Succession Duties

Ontario	\$833,502.99
(p. A103, Public Accounts).	
Quebec.....	568,278 63
(p. 6, Public Accounts)	

Taxes on Commercial Corporations

Ontario.....	\$672,241 76
(p. A103 Public Accounts)	
Quebec.....	464,362 29
(p. 6, Public Accounts).	

Difference.....	\$207,879 47
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Contributions for Insane Asylums

Ontario	\$187,688.87
(p. A103, Public Accounts).	
Quebec	112,542.00
(p. 6, Public Accounts)	

Difference.....	\$ 75,146 87
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Contributions for Reformatory and Industrial Schools

Ontario.....	\$ 78,367.08
(p. A103, Public Accounts).	
Quebec	26,660.67
(p. 6, Public Accounts)	
Difference	\$ 52,706.41

Automobile Licenses

Ontario	\$ 8,098.50
(p. A118, Public Accounts).	
Quebec	2,826.00
(p. 6, Public Accounts)	
Difference.....	\$ 5,272.50

And, if it be objected that the population of Ontario is greater, we reply by the following figures based on the population of each province, according to the last census :

Succession Duties

Ontario ..	\$ 0.38	18/100 per head
Quebec	0.34	46/100 "
Difference ..	\$ 0.03	72/100 "

Thus, even taking population into account, Ontario collected 10 per cent. more than Quebec.

Taxes on Commercial Corporations

Ontario	\$ 0.30	79/100 per head
Quebec	0.28	16/100 "
Difference ..	\$ 0.02	63/100 "

Thus, even taking population into account, Ontario collected 9 per cent. more than Quebec.

Insane Asylums

Ontario	..\$ 0.08	59/100	per head
Quebec	0.06	82/100	"
Difference ..	\$ 0.01	77/100	"

Thus, even taking population into account, Ontario collected 25 per cent. more than Quebec.

Reformatory and Industrial Schools

Ontario..	\$ 0.03	59/100	per head
Quebec ..	0.01	61/100	"
Difference ..	..\$ 0.01	98/100	"

Thus, even taking population into account, Ontario collected 122 per cent. more than Quebec.

Why blame the Quebec Government when nothing but praise is awarded that of Ontario?

Moreover, have the Conservative leaders, both great and small—there are nineteen all told—ever promised to reduce the taxes? Have they not rather increased them?

Electors, do not forget the past. Remember the words pronounced by one of them, Mr. Bergeron, in the House of Commons, on the 25th March, 1907, during a debate on the re-adjustment of the Federal subsidy:

"The more money you give the Provinces, the more will you postpone the day when they will have to impose direct taxation."

LICENSES FOR THE SALE OF LIQUOR

In some quarters, the Liberals are reproached with having considerably increased the price of licenses for hotels, restaurants, etc.

One may judge of the value of that reproach by the following extract from the Votes and Proceedings of last session (page 465) :

By Mr. Lemieux—How much was collected from hotel licenses, etc., in 1885-86, in 1895-96 and in 1905-06?

Answer, by Honorable Mr. Weir :

	Hotel Licenses	Other liquor licenses
In 1885-86....	\$103,941 25	\$153,618 19
1895-96....	195,448 32	393,104 33
1905-06....	210,993 30	446,617 09

Thus we have the following increases during each of the decades :

From 1886 to 1896—

Hotel licenses.....	\$ 91,507 07
Other licenses.....	239,485 14

Total....	\$330,992 21
	(128 p.c.)

From 1896 to 1906—

Hotel licenses.....	\$ 15,544 98
Other licenses.....	58,512 76

Total....	\$ 69,057 74
	(11 p.c.)

ECONOMY IN EXPENDITURE

Mr. Marchand and Mr. Gouin successively promised to practise economy, and that promise has been kept, like the others.

As Mr. Gouin said at Chateauguay on the 3rd August, 1907, over \$48,000,000.00 passed through the hands of the Provincial Treasurers between the 1st July, 1897, and the

the 30th June, 1907. Now, it has never been proved that a single cent of those \$48,000,000.00 was spent irregularly.

The Conservatives say that the expenses have been from year to year increased since 1897 and they conclude from this that the Liberal party have squandered money and have not practised economy.

Practising economy does not mean reducing expenditure.

"In his Budget Speech delivered in December, 1894, Mr. Taillon said:

"The Budget of each year differs in several items from those of preceding years. When one wishes to be impartial, he should not confine himself to crying out that there is here a diminution in the receipts and *there an augmentation in expenditure*; he should rather seek the cause, the explanation of the one and the other. . If they are not due to the fault or the simple negligence of the Administration, if they were inevitable or were otherwise justifiable, then the accusations are unjust and can only serve the purpose of an extreme partisan," (page 10.)

Now, once more, has any fault or negligence on the part of Liberal Administrations ever been proved?

Was not the increase in expenditure since 1897—which, however, is not considerable—justifiable, inevitable, necessary even?

Justifiable that increase was, since, as we shall show, it relates chiefly to the appropriations for Public Instruction, Colonization, Agriculture and Charitable Institutions.

Inevitable, necessary even, that increase was, owing to the development of the Province and the increase of its population. Read what was said by Messrs. Robertson and Taillon, ex-Treasurers in the Conservative Administrations:

"These facts afford us a proof of the obligation, and, some may say, the necessity, of increasing expenditure in the administration of public affairs, as the country develops and its population increases, (Mr. Robertson's Budget Speech, 24th March, 1885, page 11).

"In a public administration, the increase of expenses is in a certain degree inevitable, even when the population remains numerically the same" (Mr. Taillon's Budget Speech 21st December, 1894, p. 15).

But has the increase in expenditure been considerable since 1897? This may be judged by the following tables:

Ordinary expenditure (exclusive of Extraordinary Public Works).

1896-97	....	....	....	....	\$4,685,450.42
1897-98	....	....	....	....	4,364,686.68
1898-99	....	....	....	....	4,189,964.10
1899-1900	....	....	....	....	4,428,385.72
1900-01	....	....	....	....	4,492,092.44
1901-02	..	....	....	....	4,470,332.15
1902-03	....	....	....	....	4,530,616.88
1903-04	....	....	....	....	4,744,969.24
1904-05	....	....	....	....	4,937,882.77
1905-06	..	....	....	....	5,012,417.74
1906-07	....	....	....	....	4,691,250.42

Total 1897-1907\$45,862,598.14

Yearly average, \$4,586,259.81.

Last year of Conservative regime (1896-97) . \$ 4,685,450.42

Yearly average during the Liberal regime
(1897-1907) 4,586,259.81

Decrease \$ 99,190.61

Last year of Conservative regime (1896-97) . \$ 4,685,450.42

Last year of Liberal regime (1906-07) 4,691,250.42

Increase.. .. \$ 5,800.00

Total expenditure (exclusive of loans and railway subsidies).

1896-97	\$5,288,469.33
1897-98	4,686,517.34
1898-99	4,334,041.18
1899-1900	4,908,905.36
1900-01	4,561,656.73
1901-02	4,573,770.66
1902-03	4,702,629.88
1903-04	4,892,012.74
1904-05	5,112,292.29
1905-06	5,255,981.40
1906-07	4,793,044.89

Total 1897-1907.. ..\$47,410,862.47

Yearly average, \$4,741,086.24

Last year of Conservative regime (1896-97)..\$ 5,288,469.33
 Yearly average during Liberal regime (1897-1907) .. 4,741,086.24

Decrease .. \$ 547,383.09

Last year of Conservative regime (1896-97) ..\$ 5,288,469.33
 Last year of Liberal regime (1906-1907) .. 4,793,044.89

Decrease .. \$ 495,424.44

The figures of the above tables are taken from the Votes and Proceedings of last session (pages 441, 571 and 572).

The Conservatives may perhaps object that the expenditure of 1896-97 was abnormal, etc. To be fair, we will compare the ordinary controllable expenditure of 1885-68, with that of 1895-96, and we will compare the decrease in expenditure during the decade 1896-1906, with the increase during the decade 1886-96.

EXTRACT FROM VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY, SESSION OF 1908, p. 464.

Mr. Vilas —By charging to their proper accounts the sums imputable to the fiscal year 1895-1896, which were only paid out of the appropriations for 1896-97, how much did the following services cost in 1885-86, in 1895-96 and 1905-06—1. Legislation; 2. Civil Government; 3. Administration of Justice (including police and inspection of public offices); 4. Prisons and Reformatory Schools; 5. Public instruction (including arts and manufactures, and Night Schools); 6. Agriculture, colonization, immigration and repatriation; 7. Ordinary public works; 8. Benevolent institutions (including insane asylums); 9. Miscellaneous (ordinary expenditure)?

Answer by Honorable Mr. Weir:

	1885-86	1895-96	1905-06
1. Legislation.....			
2. Civil Government.....	\$ 181,987.75	\$ 195,982.46	\$ 217,076.97
3. Administration of Justice including police and inspection of public offices.....	183,675.41	253,401.69	311,829.55
4. Reformatories and reformatory schools.....	384,173.81	547,685.23	706,629.59
5. Public Instruction including Arts and Manufactures, night schools.....	94,332.27	61,155.32	57,614.62
6. Agriculture, colonization, immigration and repatriation.	362,122.75	389,619.16	534,460.18
7. Public Works, ordinary.....	249,478.00	301,814.09	359,100.00
8. Benevolent institutions, including insane asylums.....	82,584.40	111,221.89	127,851.03
9. Miscellaneous ordinary expenses.....	267,776.00	339,582.45	460,775.24
	248,880.74	426,504.52	648,082.05
	\$2,055,011.13	\$2,626,966.81	\$3,423,419.23

In this statement all the ordinary expenditure is included with the exception of the service of the public debt.

Now, if we compare the increase in the expense of each of the services during the decade 1886-1896, and during the decade 1896-1906, we get the following table :

	From 1886 to 1896	From 1896 to 1906
1. Legislation....	Inc. 7 p.c.	Inc. 10 p.c.
2. Civil Government	" 37 p.c.	" 23 p.c.
3. Administration		
Justice..	" 42 p.c.	" 29 p.c.
4. Reformatory institutions....	Dec. 35 p.c.	Dec. 5 p.c.
5. Public Instruction..	Inc. 7 p.c.	Inc. 37 p.c.
6. Agriculture, Colonization, etc.....	" 20 p.c.	" 19 p.c.
7. Public Works (maintenance and repairs)	" 34 p.c.	" 14 p.c.
8. Benevolent institutions	" 26 p.c.	" 35 p.c.
9. Various other services,	" 71 p.c.	" 51 p.c.

And it should be noted that in the item "various other services" for 1905-06 is included an amount of \$105,000 which the Government paid to families of twelve living children in settlement of their claims. Without this exceptional payment the expenditure for "various other services" would have been \$543,082.05 instead of \$648,082.05 and the increase in the expenditure for those services during the decade 1896-1906 would have been 27 p.c. instead of 51 p.c.

The Ontario Government, the Conservative press tells us, is an economical Government. The following table gives the figures of the ordinary expenditure including that for Public Works in Ontario and Quebec for the past year :

	Population 1901.	Expenses 1907	Expense per head
Ontario	2,182,947	\$7,714,245	3.53
Quebec	1,648,898	4,764,844	2.89
Difference.....		\$2,949,401	\$0.64

Had the expense per head been as great in Quebec as in Ontario, we would have spent \$5,820,610, say \$1,053,540 more, and, it should be noted, that we had to pay \$1,258,951.50 for the service of the public debt, while that service cost less than \$350,000 in Ontario.

NO MORE LOANS

The Liberal party promised, in 1897, to not impose fresh burdens on the Province and it has kept its word.

We have seen that, in the Conservatives' time, it was the fashion to contract loans: temporary loans, permanent loans, loans of all kinds.

Times have changed.

The men of 1892 have disappeared and, with them, the fashion of borrowing.

Since the 26th May, 1897, but one temporary loan of \$700,000.00 was contracted and that was under the following circumstances:

Between the 1st July, 1892, and the 30th June, 1897, various loans had been contracted which had yielded the sum of \$18,119,318.72. The proceeds of such loans were to have been employed for certain purposes specified in the acts authorizing them and for no other.

Now, out of the above \$18,119,318.72, a total amount of \$17,190,565.78 had been so paid. On the 30th June, 1897,

there should, therefore, have been \$928,752.94 in hand to meet the obligations for the payment of which the loans had been contracted.

Unfortunately there was then in hand only \$248,171.57. The difference, \$680,581.37, had been employed for purposes not authorized by law, in meeting yearly deficits. And it was merely for the purpose of restoring the balance of the loans account that Mr. Marchand effected a temporary loan of \$700,000.00 on the 30th June, 1897.

As may be seen, that loan had been contracted to repay amounts that had been irregularly used to pay the Conservatives' deficits.

Not a single loan, either permanent or temporary, has been contracted since the 1st July, 1897.

The loan of \$700,000.00 has also been paid.

INCREASE IN REVENUE.

ACTIVE COLLECTION OF AMOUNTS DUE

Previous to the elections of 1895, the Conservatives had abolished some of the taxes they had imposed in 1892: the tax on transfers of property, the tax on certain persons, the licenses on trade and manufactures. Those taxes, as we have seen, had produced \$1,428,214.45 from the 1st July, 1892, to the 30th June, 1896, say, \$357,053.61 per annum.

They had further consented to reduce by \$66,500.00 the amount of yearly interest paid by the Canadian Pacific to the Province on the balance of the price of sale of the Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa and Occidental Railway.

When the Liberals came to power, the annual revenue was thus reduced by so much, namely: by over \$420,000.00.

On the other hand, we have shown that the Liberals have not, since 1897, revived the repealed taxes; that they have not imposed fresh taxes, apart from that on Stock Exchange transactions which yielded \$33,886.66 in 1905-06, and \$38,654.84 last year.

And yet, through their initiative and vigilance, the current receipts have considerably increased since 1897.

This may be seen by the following figures taken from page 442 of the Votes and Proceedings of last session :

	Ordinary revenue
1896-97.....	\$3,874,966 22
1897-98.....	4,177,656 35
1898-99.....	4,223,579 45
1899-00.....	4,451,578 29
1900-01.....	4,563,432.18
1901-02.....	4,515,169 88
1902-03.....	4,699,772 87
1903-04.....	4,880,686 54
1904-05.....	5,039,001 07
1905-06.....	5,340,166 88
1906-07.....	5,270,594 74
Revenue of 1896-97.....	\$3,874,966 22
" 1906-07.....	5,270,594 74
Increase.. ..	\$1,395,628.52
	(say 36 per cent)

An increase of \$1,395,628.52 or 36 per cent in ten years !

And, once more, it should be noted that in 1906-07 we did not sell an inch of the forest domain, nor touch a cent of the additional Federal subsidy.

Moreover, as the Canadian Pacific repaid in 1906 to the Province the \$7,000,000.00 it owed on the price of the Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa and Occidental Railway and as

the Government used the greater portion of that amount to redeem the public debt, instead of receiving \$299,395.07 for interest in the \$7,000,000.00, we received only \$66,237.48, a difference of \$233,157.59. Taking this difference into account, the increase in the other current receipts has thus been \$1,628,786.11 in ten years.

Increase in the Revenue from the Public Domain

The Conservatives repeat that if the receipts have increased so prodigiously, it is due to the fact that the Liberals have managed chiefly to make the taxes yield more. Now this assertion is formally contradicted by the Public Accounts.

We have shown above that the increase in the total ordinary revenue since 1897, had been 36 per cent; we will now show that the revenue from the public domain has increased by 54 per cent since 1897.

The revenues of the public domain, as everybody knows, come from lands, woods and forests, mines, fisheries and game. Now, at page 4 of the Public Accounts of 1896-97 and 1906-07, we find that those sources of revenue yielded the following receipts:

1896-97... ..	\$ 879,893.26
1906-07... ..	1,358,918.81

Increase... .. \$479,025.55, say 54 per cent.

While the general receipts increased 36 per cent, the revenue from the public domain increased 54 per cent. And, once more, no limits were sold in 1906-1907.

Has not the Liberal Administration been progressive and beneficial.

RE-ADJUSTMENT OF THE FEDERAL SUBSIDY

But the Liberals have not only striven to obtain greater revenues from our public domain; they have not only striven to collect all amounts due the Province; they have also succeeded in assuring a considerable increase in yearly revenue for the Province, by obtaining the re-adjustment of the Federal subsidies.

IT IS THE WORK OF THE LIBERALS

We can proudly proclaim it. The effective agitation that was to bring about the solution of that important question was begun by a Liberal Government and it was carried to a successful issue by a Liberal Government.

It was a Liberal, Mr. Joly, who, as early as 1875, when the de Boucherville Government was struggling amidst financial embarrassments, proposed to call upon Ottawa.

It was a Liberal, Mr. Mercier, who, in 1861, said in the Legislative Assembly:

"We entered Confederation under very unfavorable conditions and we should be entitled to an additional *subsidy*."

It was the same Liberal, Mr. Mercier, who, in 1883, adjured the Mousseau Government to ask for an increased subsidy and offered it the hearty co-operation of our party. "We can succeed," he said, "if we join forces."

And Mr. Mousseau replied: "We must be prudent, Confederation was made for us. It would be dangerous to touch it."

It was Mr. Mercier again who, on coming into power, took the sole practical means of attaining success by organizing a concerted movement by all the Provinces. And,

if the Conference of 1887, was not immediately followed by the settlement of the question of "better terms," it was because the Tories were then in power at Ottawa; because Sir John A. Macdonald was hostile to provincial rights and because the Conservatives of this Province feared to embarrass him by making common cause with the Liberals.

It was again a Liberal, Mr. Parent, who took up the matter once more, in 1902, and brought it again before the public by calling a new Conference and getting it to re-adopt the resolutions of 1887.

Finally, to a Liberal, Mr. Gouin, is due the credit of having, by his ability and persistent labor, succeeded in securing the triumph of the cause of the provinces, as it is with a Liberal, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, that the glory rests of having allowed the justice of our claims.

MR. GOUIN THE ORGANIZER OF THE VICTORY

That Gouin organized the final victory, even the most malignant cannot seriously deny.

In fact as early as October 1905, Mr. Whitney, the Ontario Premier, informed the public that the fate of the provinces was in the hands of Mr. Gouin and of Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

"Mr. Whitney, on being asked whether he would take part in the Conference regarding the Federal subsidy, replied: I do not know whether there will be a new one. *The matter at present rests with the Premier of the Province of Quebec and the Premier of Canada.* The latter will, no doubt, be urged by the former to take action. *We have nothing to do with it.* If we are summoned by Sir Wilfrid Laurier for that purpose, we will willingly comply with his request. For my part, I am entirely in accord with Hon. Mr. Gouin in his claims respecting this matter. Ontario has no reason to be indifferent." (*La Patrie*, 11th October, 1905.)

The *Mail and Empire*, of Toronto, was no less explicit.

It published the following on the day after the Conference of October, 1906 :

"Such an occasion as a general Conference of all the different Governments, which means the bringing together of many of the big men politically in the Dominion, enables one to size up their calibre and influence in a way that is rarely afforded. As the Chairman of the Conference and *the instigator of the present movement for a financial re-arrangement*, Mr. Gouin naturally occupied a prominent position. It was clear all along that he was determined to secure a financial re-arrangement at any cost." (*Mail and Empire*, 15th October, 1906.)

On the other hand, a paper whose impartiality cannot be doubted, *La Semaine Religieuse de Quebec*, said, in its issue of the 20th October, 1906 :

"If, as we believe, the Provinces will at last get from the Federal Government the financial aid they justly claim, they—and especially the Province of Quebec—will owe much gratitude to Hon. Mr. Gouin who made that important question his own personal affair, since his entry into the provincial administration, of which he is the head."

La Semaine Religieuse de Quebec did not exaggerate. Mr. Gouin did really make this matter his personal affair.

In 1902, he had taken an active part in the Quebec Interprovincial Conference and, in the following year, he published a remarkable treatise whose title : "*Question Actuelle... Le Remaniement des Subsidies Fédéraux en faveur des Provinces*" ("The Question of the Hour. The Re-adjustment of the Federal Subsidies in favor of the Provinces") was alone a profession of faith. Thus, when he became Premier, he made the question one of the principal items of his programme. Let us read these passages from his speech outlining his programme :

".....Our needs are pressing. Education, agriculture, colonization, require immediate encouragement which we cannot give because our revenues are too limited.

"There is one revenue, however, that might, that should be increased at once and that is the Federal subsidy.

.....
We claim that increase in the Federal subsidy, with our sister provinces, not as alms, but as a just debt of the payment whereof will enable us to satisfy popular needs, ideas and wishes and to labor more effectively for the advancement and prosperity of our beloved country."

From that moment, his mind seemed possessed with this idea. The Federal subsidy must be increased. On every occasion when he had to deliver an address; at public meeting, at banquets, at receptions in educational institutions, always and everywhere he returned to the subject. He was the man with one idea; he wished to carry it out; he had confidence in its triumph. "We shall succeed," he said one day.

But Mr. Gouin was not content with speaking, he acted.

The surest way to obtain success was to organize a concerted movement by all the provinces. He set at once to work and rallied together the Governments of the sister provinces.

He afterwards got the Legislature and the Boards of Trade of our Province to pass resolutions in favor of the readjustment of the subsidy.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier responded to the appeal and called a Conference of the Prime Ministers of the Provinces.

After a week's deliberations, the latter were assured by the Federal Government that the subsidies would be readjusted and increased.

In the spring of 1907, the Federal Parliament, at the request of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, voted an address to His Majesty the King, praying him to amend the act of 1867 according to the terms of the resolutions of the Interprovincial Conference.

Mr. Gouin did not, however, consider his task ended. He went at once to England to press and watch the adoption of the remedial measure.

Thanks to his efforts, the measure was adopted, as asked for, in the session held in the summer of 1907, and it was especially provided in it that it should take effect from the 1st July, 1907, although voted only at the end of August. As the new subsidies are payable in advance and by half-yearly instalments, Mr. Gouin's efforts have thus made the Province gain at least one instalment of the additional subsidy, say, nearly \$300,000.00.

A GAIN OF \$600,000.00. ANNUUM

Fresh Increase with Increase of Population

The net result of the re-adjustment may be defined as follows:

Previous to the 1st July, 1907, the Province of Quebec received, under the act of 1867, a yearly subsidy of \$959,252.80. Since the 1st July, 1907, it gets \$1,559,118.40.

The increase is therefore \$599,865.60, say 62 per cent.

That additional subsidy of \$599,865.60 represents an annual interest on nearly \$15,000,000.00 at 4 per cent.

And there is still more.

Under the old act the annual subsidy was a fixed one,

and remained the same whatever might be the increase of the population.

Under the amendments of 1907, the yearly subsidy will be increased after each census according to the number of the population at the rate of 80 cents per head. That is to say, that if, in the decade from 1901 to 1911, our population increases in the same proportion as during the decade from 1891 to 1901, we shall receive about \$125,000.00 more after the census of 1911.

Attitude of the Conservatives

Now that Mr. Gouin has succeeded in having the question of the Federal subsidy settled and in securing an additional yearly subsidy of several hundred thousand dollars our opponents seek: some to belittle the importance of the work done and the others to take the credit for it.

Thus, last summer, Mr. LeBlanc and Mr. Bourassa were heard to state on the same day that the re-adjustment of the Federal subsidy was an operation that consisted in taking money out of one pocket, and putting it in another. Thus Mr. Chapais was heard to claim for his party the credit of the work done by Mr. Gouin because in 1883 and 1884, the Mousseau Government was the first to have resolutions in favor of better terms adopted by the House.

To those who say that the readjustment of the Federal subsidy is merely a piece of juggling, there is nothing to be said. They are more to be pitied than blamed.

As to the others, and they are the greater number, let us remind them of some of their past and their words.

It is true that in 1885, the Mousseau Government had resolutions adopted in favor of "better terms," but it had to do so under the lashing of the Liberals.

What happened to these resolutions? They were merely T. R. Land into the waste paper basket by the Ottawa Tories.

Why? Because Quebec was acting alone. Mr. Girouard, the then Conservative member for Jacques Cartier, said so in the House of Commons on the 14th of April, 1884.

"It is admitted by everybody that the Government would not touch the basis, the foundation of the provincial subsidy, *because all the provinces were not represented.*"

And yet it was known at Quebec that we would not get an increase of subsidy without the other provinces getting one also. Mr. Robertson, the Treasurer, admitted it in 1884.

"As regards the increase of the *per capita* subsidy, if we obtain it, the Federal Government will have to grant a similar increase to the other provinces."

A concerted action of the provinces—such was the true tactic for attaining success. The Conservatives did not adopt these tactics in 1897 any more than in 1884. The Liberals, on the contrary, followed them in 1887, in 1902 and in 1906. The Conservatives, moreover, were never united in their claims. While some clamored for justice, others wrote or said that justice was not due.

Their organs, the "Gazette" and "Chronicle" were always opposed to increasing the Federal subsidy.

Mr. Monk, one of their nineteen leaders, wished to lay down conditions. Read the account of a speech he delivered before the Lafontaine Club, amidst applause, on the 17th December, 1905, the day after the last Conservative convention in this province.

"Speaking of the subsidies to the provinces, Mr. Monk did not consider *independent* action on the part of the provinces possible if the Central Government should collect the

taxes and the provinces spend them. If additional subsidies the country collect taxes and the provinces spend them *as they wished.*" (La Patrie, 18th December, 1905.)

Did not Mr. Philemon Cousineau, a Conservative advocate, of Montreal, who is mentioned as a probable candidate in Jacques Cartier, declare at the Buisson picnic, in the presence of Messrs. LeBlanc and Bergeron, that the increase of the Federal subsidy would create a bad precedent. Read the account in the issue of the 27th September, 1906, of the *Gazette*.

".....The Premier could devise nothing more effective to increase the revenue than to go begging for subsidies from the Dominion treasury. Mr. Cousineau thought this end could have been achieved to better advantage by developing the resources of the province. He was also of the opinion that the conference of the Ministers with regard to the federal subsidies would result in a refusal on the part of the Dominion Government....
.....In the second place, the increase of the subsidies accorded to this province by the Dominion Government would create a bad precedent, in that it would induce other provinces to do the same thing. So far Quebec had been the only province to make such a request, the other provincial Governments, particularly that of Ontario and Nova Scotia having found sufficient resources at home, and such an action on the part of Quebec, which was in as good, if not better, circumstances materially, betrayed a lack of administrative ability."

And Messrs. LeBlanc and Bergeron listened with a paternal air to these words of Mr. Cousineau. They even congratulated him.

And when the Laurier Government asked the House of Commons, in 1907, to adopt a remedial measure, did not Mr. Bergeron, another of the nineteen Conservative leaders, say:

Some of the Fathers of Confederation wanted a legisla-

tove union—one government for all the provinces. I think they were right. Others wanted the Federal system. But, reading the speeches of Mr. Brown, Mr. Dorion and others, who favored a Federal union, we find that even they designed that the Local Legislatures should not be Parliaments It is said that this is an unpopular method of taxation. The Fathers of Confederation did not so regard it, but looked upon it as the best way for the provinces to raise it, their revenue. And I think they were right. Some will say that there is an Opposition in Ottawa opposing such a scheme (the re-adjustment of the Federal subsidy). It is true I oppose it because I believe it is bad in itself, it is particularly bad for us in Quebec. The more money you give to the Local Governments the longer you will prevent them from resorting to direct taxation, and only in that case will the people realize where the money comes from and where it goes.

(Extract from the unrevised edition of the debates of the 25th March, 1907, pages 5460 and following) :

A month later, on the 25th April, when the question came up again before the House, Mr. Bergeron spoke again in the same sense and bitterly reproached the Gouin Government for not having had recourse, like his predecessors to "the honest method of direct taxation" (same debates, page 7920).

AGRICULTURE

INCREASED APPROPRIATIONS

The Liberals had promised to increase the appropriations for agriculture.

Here is an official statement of the amounts spent every year since the 1st July, 1892 :

The expenditure for 1894-95, of 1896-97, and of 1904-05 may seem abnormal, exceptional. Here is the explanation. In 1894-95, amongst other things, the sum of \$15,000.00

was paid to Mr. A. O. P. R. Landry, president of the Quebec Exhibition Company (see p. 151 of the Public Accounts of 1894-95); \$8,240.00 to the secretary of the Montreal Exposition Co. (see same page) and \$17,000 to Messrs. Le-febvre & Co. to reimburse them what they had paid to farm-

ers for sugar beets (see p. 148 of the Public Accounts). In 1896-97, the sum of \$28,000.00 was paid for the Montreal exhibition. And in 1904-05 about 525,000.00 for the Liege Exposition.

TOTAL EXPENSES FOR AGRICULTURE

CONSERVATIVE REGIME

1892-93.....	\$115,478 17
1893-94.....	159,097 00
1894-95.....	200,330 66
1895-96.....	166,464 09
1896-97.....	230,795 75

5 years.....\$872,165 67

Yearly average...\$174,433 13

LIBERAL REGIME

1897-98.....	\$197,226 97
1898-99.....	175,418 26
1899-1900.....	193,759 97
1900-01.....	200,217 13
1901-02.....	217,358 69

5 years.....\$983,981 02

Yearly average...\$196,796 20

1902-03.....	\$234,162 04
1903-04.....	247,850 00
1904-05.....	305,637 23
1905-06.....	247,668 78

1906-07..... 228,331 87

5 years.... \$1,263,649 92

Yearly average\$ 252,729 98

RECAPITULATION

From 1892 to 1897.....\$ 872,165 67

From 1897 to 1902..... 983,981 02

Increase.... ..\$ 391,484 25
(44 per cent)

Average yearly increase.....\$ 22,363 07

From 1892 to 1897.....\$ 872,165 67

From 1902 to 1907..... 1,263,649 92

Increase.... ..\$ 391,484 25
(44 per cent.)

Average yearly increase.... ..\$ 78,296 85

For whom should farmers vote?

For the Conservatives who, after collecting from \$200,000.00 to \$300,000.00 in taxes on transfers of property, gave only \$174,433.00 per annum, an an average, to agriculture?

Or for the Liberal Government, which spends \$252,729.98 yearly for agriculture, without having revived that unjust tax, without having imposed new taxes on farmers? And that amount does not include the new grants voted last session for the improvement of roads and for the construction of iron bridges.

To put the question is to answer it!

PROFITABLE EXPENSES

The result of the comparisons of these totals is far from giving us a full idea of the good done by those grants under the Liberal regime. The manner in which the money was spent has contributed, still more than the increase in the grants, to procure much greater advantages to farmers.

Under the ever blessed regime of the "honest men," there was "the agricultural machine" which made all the good grain pass into the pockets of favorites and left nothing but chaff for the farmers.

Thus, from 1892 to 1897, under the pretext of helping to improve the breed of horses, the sum of \$27,000.00 was paid to the famous *Haras National* (National Stud Farm), for supplying foundered stallions to agricultural societies.

The sum of \$48,814.09 was likewise squandered under the pretext of encouraging the cultivation of sugar beets, but in fact to favor the proprietors of a bankrupt factory finally transformed into a gin distillery.

We would advise those who wish to have more typical details respecting the working of "the agricultural machine," to read those given on pages 151 and following of the Public Accounts of 1896-97.

We extract some of them :

L. T. Brodeur, travelling expenses to L'Assomption and Compton	\$ 20 00
Geo. Buchanan, travelling expenses to L'Assomption and Compton.. . . .	85 75
Rev. Jos. Richard, travelling expenses to Haras National	12 85
The Rolland Paper Company, 700 copies of "l'Almanach des Cercles Agricoles.... .	35 00
Hon. Ph. Landry, travelling expenses to L'Assomption School	21 00

Geo. des Etangs—Lectures delivered on sugar beet-root	120 00
C. O. Beauchemin & Fils—For balance due for printing 100,000 copies of the pamphlet "En route pour le Canada."	346 83
G. LaRocque—1500 copies of 'Manuel des Engrais'	400 00
Proulx & Proulx—Printing 2500 copies of "Le Sol."	300 00
Mercier & Co.—Binding of 1500 copies of the "Manuel des Engrais," and 1,000 copies of "Plantes Fourageres"	632 84
Gazette Printing Co.—Printing of 10,000 copies of a speech by Hon. Mr. Beaubien.....	132 58
Cie Typographique de Cantons de l'Est—Printing 3,000 copies of "Culture des Fruits."	242 92
Cadieux & Derome—1,000 copies of the "Manuel d'Economie Domestique" by DeMontigny...	600 00
R. A. Turenne, travelling expenses to Gilmore's stables	20 00
P. V. Ayotte— Printing of a speech by Hon. Mr. Beaubien	53 75
E. Senecal & Fils—Printing of a speech by Hon. Mr. Beaubien	373 05
Cadieux & Derome—100 copies of the "Manuel d'Economie Domestique, by deMontigny....	60 00
Mercier & Cie—1500 copies of "La Chimie de la Ferme"	750 00
Le Citoyen—Printing of "La Colonisation au secours de l'Ouvrier"	250 00
Dr. G. La Rocque—1500 copies of the " Manuel des Engrais".....	400 00
Proulx & Proulx—Printing of 2500 copies of " Le Sol."	490 00
Proulx & Proulx—Printing 3,000 copies of "Manuel de l'Industrie de laitiere"	866 34
Courier de St. Hyacinthe—Printing of 12,000 pamphlets on roads.	621 60
P. V. Ayotte—Printing of 800 copies of "Questions sur l'Industrie Laitière"	104 71

Those expenses alone amount to nearly \$7,000.00. What would be the result if we were to take into account all the

sums paid out of the appropriations for agriculture, for printing, travelling expenses, gratuities to employees, etc.?

Let us now show what was spent in a profitable manner under both regimes.

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES

CONSERVATIVE REGIME

1892-93	.....	\$ 32,322 52
1893-94	.....	28,373 38
1894-95	.....	24,090 01
1895-96	.....	23,137 14
1896-97	.....	26,166 47

5 years\$134,089 52

Yearly average.. ..\$ 26,819 90

LIBERAL REGIME

1897-98	.....	\$ 26,157 82
1898-99	.....	27,677 86
1899-1900	.....	28,741 10
1900-01	.....	29,779 78
1901-02	.....	28,997 19

5 years\$141,353 75

Yearly average\$ 28,270.75

1902-03	.....	\$ 30,335 62
1903-04	.....	32,785 81
1904-05	.....	35,364 34
1905-06	.....	36,620 10
1906-07	.....	35,932 07

5 years\$171,007 94

Yearly average..\$ 34,201 58

RECAPITULATION

Five years of Conservative regime (1892-1897) ..	\$184,089.52
Five last years of Liberal regime (1902-07)	171,007.94
Increase	\$ 36,918.42
(87 p.c.)	

Average yearly increase\$ 7,388.58

Yet it should be noted that the expenditure decreased under the Conservatives. In 1897 it was nearly \$6,000.00 less than in 1902-03, while in 1907 it was nearly \$10,000 more than in 1897.

Note also that the figures are those of the amounts expended and not of the appropriations voted.

FARMERS' CLUBS

CONSERVATIVE REGIME

1892-93 ..	\$ ———
1893-94	20,487 33
1894-95	28,526 32
1895-96	25,473 63
1896-97	25,355 61

5 years\$ 99,842 89

Yearly average\$ 19,968 57

LIBERAL REGIME

1897-98	\$ 25,905 11
1898-99	19,542 71
1899-1900	19,171 00
1900-01	20,287 50
1901-02	21,444 00

5 years\$106,850 32

Yearly average... ..\$ 21,370 06

1902-03.....	\$ 22,427 50
1903-04.....	22,916 50
1904-05.....	23,514 00
1905-06.....	23,680 50
1906-07.....	25,260 00

5 years\$117,797 50

Yearly average\$ 23,559 50

RECAPITULATION

Five years of Conservative regime
(1892-97)..... \$ 99,842 89

Increase..... \$ 17,854 61 (17 p.c.)

ENCOURAGEMENT OF DAIRY INDUSTRY

CONSERVATIVE REGIME

1892-93.....	\$ 15,873 56
1893-94.....	19,200 00
1894-95.....	27,628 41
1895-96.....	28,212 40
1896-97.....	37,372 13

5 years..\$128,286 50

Yearly average.. ..\$ 25,657 30

LIBERAL REGIME

1897-98.....	\$ 25,160 94
1898-99.....	20,935 87
1899-1900.....	28,152 37
1900-01.....	36,086 65
1901-02.....	40,000 00

5 years..... \$150,335 83

Yearly average.. ..\$ 30,067 16

1902-03.....	\$ 50,000 00
1903-04.....	53,000 00
1904-05.....	70,000 00
1905-06.....	68,668 78
1906-07.....	56,031 87

5 years..... ..\$297,700 65

Yearly average.. ..\$ 59,540 13

RECAPITULATION

Five years of Conservative regime
(1892-1897)..... ..\$128,286 50

Five years of Liberal regime
(1902-1907)..... ..297,700 65

Increase\$168,414 15 (131 p.c.)

If the price of dairy products has reached such a high figure during past years, the Provincial Government must be thanked for it, because it has devoted its efforts in every way to make the inspection of butter and cheese factories stricter and more effective.

It was especially with the view of favoring our dairy industry that the Government established a dairy school at St. Hyacinthe, which is certainly one of the best fitted out in the country. This is what the *Erenement* said of it in its issue of the 11th September, 1906:

“Everybody agrees to-day in saying that the new dairy school at St. Hyacinthe is one of the finest, if not the finest, and best fitted out on the American continent.

“The development of the dairy industry in our Province, its importance to the farming classes, as well as the necessity of keeping up with the progress made in this industry, had shown the insufficiency of the old school. To meet the wishes of the members of the Dairymen's Association and of exporters, the Provincial Government has put up the new building and provided it with the most complete

and most modern plant. If one compares the new school with the old one, it may be said that there is as much difference between them as there is between the business we did fifteen years ago and that we are now doing."

The development of the dairy industry which the Liberal Governments have so generously encouraged since 1897, has had the effect of causing the Province to progress in the raising of live stock.

The importance assumed by that branch of agriculture may be seen by the following figures supplied us by the census commissioners in 1905 in connection with companies engaged in slaughtering animals and packing meats.

Value of products in 1900.....	\$3,079,440 00
" " 1905.....	5,351,739 00
Increase....	\$2,272,299 00
	(say over 70 per cent)

IMPROVED BREEDS OF HORSES AND CATTLE

The generous grants given by the Government to agricultural societies and farmers' clubs have enabled them to work still more to improve the breeds of horses and cattle.

Here is a statement of the amounts such societies and clubs spent from 1st January, 1892, to 1st January, 1907, for the purchase and keep of pure-bred and registered breeding stock. The official statistics do not allow of our giving last year's expenditure.

Year	By Societies	By Clubs
1892....	\$ 1,362 31	\$
1893....	2,058 48	
1894....	2,986 00	13,616 21
1895....	3,594 08	10,129 53
1896....	2,047 32	4,595 71
1897....	2,207 11	4,803 63

1898.....	2,864 30	6,294 96
1899.....	4,086 86	6,824 49
1900.....	3,772 65	6,777 27
1901.....	3,679 00	9,561 63
1902.....	9,099 76	11,239 37
1903.....	10,842 81	11,926 97
1904.....	10,465 17	13,562 78
1905.....	13,158 18	12,630 39
1906.....	12,218 98	16,619 23
Total expenditure in 1896..		\$ 6,643 03
1906..		28,838 21

Increase.. .. \$22,195 18
 (334 per cent)

In order to enable farmers to derive every possible profit from horse-breeding, the Department of Agriculture aided first of all the importation of Ardennais horses; then it favored the establishment of an association for breeding Ardeno-Canadian horses and to enable that association, which is merely beginning to do good work, it undertook to effect the registration of all foals and fillies, the product of the crossing of Ardennais horses with our Canadian breeds.

IMPROVEMENT OF ROADS

A GRANT OF \$50,000.00 PER ANNUM

From 1892 to 1897, the Conservatives, notwithstanding the revenue from the new taxes, which they had imposed, found only \$6,000.00 to spend in improving old roads.

Since 1897, the Liberals, although they had to meet more onerous obligations, found means, nevertheless, to devote a portion of the appropriations for agriculture to the improvement of country roads.

And now that equilibrium is restored in the finances, the Gouin Government proposes to give increasingly larger subsidies for securing good roads.

Let us first see what sums the Department of Agriculture has spent, every year since 1892, for roads and bridges.

CONSERVATIVE REGIME.

1892-93.....	Nothing
1893-94.....	Nothing
1894-95.....	\$ 75 00
1895-96.....	Nothing
1896-97..	5,953 34

5 years..... \$ 6,028 34

Yearly average.. . \$ 1,205 66

LIBERAL REGIME

1897-98.....	\$ 7,795 56
1898-99.....	10,203 29
1899-1900.....	14,510 00
1900-01.....	13,000 00
1901-02.....	6,000 00

5 years..... \$51,508 85

Yearly average.. . \$10,301 77

1902-03.....	\$17,572 79
1903-04.....	11,000 00
1904-05.....	18,250 68
1905-06.....	9,661 88
1906-07.....	15,404 56

5 years..... \$71,899 91

Yearly average.... \$14,379 98

RECAPITULATION

Five years of Conservative regime (1892-97)...	\$ 6,028 34
Five years of Liberal regime (1902-07)....	71,899 91

Increase.... \$65,871 57
(more than 1000 p.c.)

Moreover, there was spent for the draining of water courses :

LIBERAL REGIME

1904-05.....	\$ 500 00
1905-06.....	2,435 15
1906-07.....	1,829 06
	\$4,764 21

Under the Conservative regime, not a cent was spent for such works.

As may be seen, the Liberals have enabled the farmers to benefit by the amounts placed at their disposal for the purposes of Agriculture. But that is merely an outline of the work they propose to do. Much still remains to be done for the improvement of rural roads. Mr. Gouin has promised to devote special attention to that question.

Already last year, the Gouin Government had assured a subsidy to rural municipalities that would assume the charge of maintaining their summer roads; but, as only two municipalities per county could benefit by such grant each year, an amendment was made to the law, last session, which, while maintaining the amount of the subsidy per county, enables a more rational distribution to be made of it in the sense that all the municipalities that pass the by-law required by law will receive a portion of the Government subsidy each year.

In future, it will be divided as follows :

1. Three-eighths of the subsidy, between municipalities that have done work during the year to the amount of at least two hundred dollars; such division shall be made by equal shares. 2. The other five-eighths will be divided proportionately to the amount expended during the year by each municipality.

Once more, the principle of the subsidy of \$800.00 per county is maintained; the method of division is altered to allow all the municipalities that will undertake the maintenance of their roads to benefit *every year* by the Government subsidy.

But the amendments do not stop here. The Government has added new provisions to the old law which transform it and make it much more favorable to rural municipalities.

It suffices to read sections 6a and 6b to see that the Government wishes to do much more than it had undertaken to do last year.

Sections 6a and 6b read as follows:

"6a. If a local and rural municipality, after adopting the by-law mentioned in section 2 of this act, incurs, during the year ending on the previous 31st December, expenses amounting to more than eight hundred dollars for making and maintaining all the roads made and improved at the expense of the corporation of such municipality, and has one or more of such roads or part of a road macadamized or gravelled, it shall be lawful for the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, on the recommendation of the Minister of Agriculture, to grant to such municipality, in addition to the subsidy above mentioned, an additional subsidy equal to one-half the expenses incurred for such macadamizing or gravelling, provided such expenses have been incurred in addition to the eight hundred dollars above mentioned, and that such special subsidy for macadamizing and gravelling does not exceed five hundred dollars in any one year.

"6b. It shall be lawful for the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, on the recommendation of the Minister of Agriculture, to grant a yearly subsidy to any local and rural municipality which, without adopting the by-law mentioned in section 2 of this act, has macadamized or gravelled one or more roads or part of roads. Such subsidy shall be equal to one-half the expenses incurred during the year ending on the previous 31st December for such macadamizing, or gravelling, and shall not exceed five hundred dollars per annum."

Last year's act dealt chiefly with earth roads.

This year the Government wishes to encourage municipalities that will make permanent roads and it places at their disposal a subsidy that may amount to \$500.00 for each municipality and serve to pay one half the expenses incurred in macadamizing or gravelling roads.

This policy shows that the present Government is not content with words, but is anxious to signalize its stay in power by deeds.

We may add that it has placed in the estimates for the coming year (1908-09) the sum of \$50,000.00 for carrying out the work it undertakes.

As the *Montreal Star* said recently: This is a splendid use to make of Provincial money. Bonusing country roads is probably a better investment than bonusing railways. It means a longer life for the farmers' vehicles, a cheaper and shorter route to market, and vast comfort to the people who use these roads for duty or pleasure.

IRON BRIDGES

A NEW APPROPRIATION OF \$50,000.00

In the estimates voted last session is an almost new item: *Railway Bridges*.

The Mercier Government had formerly inaugurated that policy, but the Conservative Governments abandoned it, to diminish their enormous deficits.

The Liberal Government, after placing our finances on a sound footing, after replacing deficits of \$800,000.00 by surpluses of half a million and one million, deemed it its duty to resume that policy; thus Mr. Gouin had a new appropriation of \$50,000.00 voted to aid the construction of iron bridges.

This is a step in the direction of abolishing toll-bridges. Thus municipalities, instead of asking private individuals to build a bridge, will ask for a grant of some thousands of dollars and will have bridges free of tolls.

This is the natural consequence of the good roads policy which the Government has been vigorously pushing for some years.

Such facility of communications is a real stride forward in the path of progress.

COLONIZATION

INCREASED APPROPRIATIONS

The Liberal party promised in 1897, to increase the grants to Colonization as much as the condition of the finances would permit. That promise has been kept, as may be seen by the following figures taken from the Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly—session of 1908. (page 448.)

CONSERVATIVE REGIME

1892-93.....	\$ 80,000
1893-94.....	79,000
1894-95.....	86,648
1895-96.....	121,000
1896-97.....	169,800

5 years..... \$536,448

Yearly average..... \$107,289

LIBERAL REGIME

1897-98.....	\$108,000
1898-99.....	79,000
1899-1900.....	124,000

1900-01.....	119,000
1901-02.....	106,000

5 years..... \$584,000

Yearly average.. 106,800

1902-03.....	\$109,000
1903-04.....	184,000
1904-05.....	184,000
1905-06.....	184,000
1906-07.....	184,000

5 years..... \$645,000

Yearly average.. \$129,000

RECAPITULATION

Five years Conservative regime (1892-97)....	\$536,448 00
Five years Liberal regime (1902-07).....	645,000 00

Increase.. .. \$108,552 00
(20 p.c.)

And this, notwithstanding the "electoral" colonization in 1896-97!

The distribution of those grants for colonization roads is now made equitably, without regard to the political opinions of the member representing the county where they are needed.

We cannot give a more striking example than that of the county of Maskinongé.

That county was represented by a Liberal from 1892 to 1897 and it has been represented by a Conservative since 1904. One may judge by the following tables how the Liberals and Conservatives distribute colonization moneys:

GRANTS TO MASKINONGE

CONSERVATIVE REGIME

1892-93.....	\$ 471 58
1893-94.....	200 000
1894-95.....	408 83
1895-96.....	Nothing
1896-97.....	650 05

5 years.....\$1,730 46

Yearly average....\$ 346 09

LIBERAL REGIME

1904-05.....	\$1,805 45
1905-06.....	9,888 76
1906-07.....	2,687 19

3 years.....\$7,381 40

Yearly average....\$2,460 46

PROTECTION OF SETTLERS

What did the Conservatives do from 1892 to 1897?

In 1892, the House appointed a Select Committee to ascertain the causes of the emigration movement which was then taking place from our country parts. The Chairman of the Committee was Mr. Chicoyne who submitted quite a voluminous and very interesting report. From that report, which is contained in the Journals of the House for 1893, we take the following passages:

"The administration of our public lands leaves much to be desired on many points. We find faults in it which have wrecked the career of more than one settler.

"The law governing the administration of our public lands should be radically changed. A formal distinction

should be made between lands fit for cultivation and those merely fit for lumber or mining operations. On lands fit for colonization, settlers should have every advantage over the lumberman; whereas, on the contrary, on lands fit for lumber or mining operations the lumberman or mining operator should be protected. The conflicts which so often arise in many parts of our Province between the settlers and the lumbermen, are a source of embarrassment and a serious obstacle to the progress and work of colonization.

"Colonies should also be made in groups and with more method, instead of letting the settlers disperse, according to their humor, through the forests, where for several years they are deprived of the advantages of municipal government and of all system of regular roads. We should, as much as possible, see that one colony reaches a sufficiently perfect system of organization before attempting to found another one. Many settlers have become discouraged under similar circumstances.

"The absence of a well ordered and properly organized system of colonization is the cause of many of our farmers giving up farming altogether. If colonization were better controlled and more practically managed, it is certain that a number of farmers, who are compelled by circumstances to abandon their homesteads, would go and hew out farms for themselves in our forests instead of going to the cities as many do, greatly to their regret."

The same report further says:

* * * * *

"Complaint is made in several places that the Crown Lands agents are not sufficiently informed as to the agricultural quality of the lands which they are charged to sell to settlers. The Government should see that its agents are more zealous and a little more painstaking in attracting the attention of settlers to public lands."

Now the Conservative party was in power five years. Did it remedy any of the evils pointed out by Mr. Chicoyne and his colleagues on the Committee of 1892?

Did it make the changes in the law suggested by that Committee?

Did it stimulate the zeal of the agents?

Not at all.

The whole work of the Conservative Governments from 1892 to 1897 may be summed up as follows.

They did away with the limitation of thirty months that existed in favor of the license-holders. Now that limitation, as stated by Mr. L. P. Pelletier in 1880 and again on the 10th June, 1892, had been imposed upon the Mercier Government in 1888 by the Conservative majority in the Legislative Council.

In 1892, they had a statute passed enacting that the Minister of Crown Lands could remit to settlers the stumpage dues they might have paid, after deducting the price of the lots from the same. Now, Mr. Flynn stated in the House, on the 7th June, 1892, that that act was the reproduction of a rule followed since 1875. (See Debates of the Legislature p. 225.)

In 1897, they had the "Homestead Act" passed. Now, what impetus did that act give to colonization?

The Conservative Governments neglected the settlers to such an extent that in 1897 one of their friends, Dr. Cloutier, of St. George, Beauce, wrote the following letter to Mr. Flynn :

" A great many settlers cannot settle here because they are prevented by a powerful company that takes all and leaves nothing. The Breakeys grab all the land and the poor settler who goes to settle in the forest with the hope of having others join him, sees his timber carried away and has nothing left wherewith to build a house and barn which are most necessary to him.....

"Now, last session, the Government had the "Homestead Act" passed, a grand act, but which does not seem to have been destined to be carried out in Beauce. There is a place in Beauce called "South Metgermette." Its scenery is splendid and it seems to contain the best arable land. There are lakes in proximity, streams on which mills can be built; finally, all that is needed for a new parish. Some citizens, who are interested in colonization, relying on the "Homestead Act," wished to secure those lots or some lots and attract a fairly considerable population there. It was intended to make roads and to purchase, in the centre of the area, a lot for a future factory, etc. It was intended to erect a new parish and to bring from the United States and elsewhere a hundred or more French-Canadian families, which ask only for means to take a lot of land that would not be taken from them by Mr. Breakey, and from which Mr. Breakey would not remove all the timber. Now, those citizens found themselves up against the usual wall. They produced certificates, which remained without any or hardly any answer and that is the position in which they are today.

"Moreover, while on the subject of certificates, it seems that, by your order, the allotment certificates sent to the Crown Lands agent in Beauce never get any further.

"What can this mean? What! People own lots and Mr. Breakey comes along, takes possession of them and the proofs that the injured parties send to the Department in their defence against such such injustice are stopped on the way by your order! This is dropping from the clouds! Is this justice? Poor settlers are deprived even of the means of defending and protecting themselves! If such be the case, it is unworthy of you and I take the opportunity to tell you that I had a different opinion of you."

Since they have come into power, the Liberals have applied themselves to facilitating the patriotic work of our settlers.

The most serious obstacle to the progress of colonization is the scattering of settlers. Dispersed in the forest, they are unavoidably deprived for years of the benefit of munic-

pal regime and of every system of regular roads. They lack both roads and schools.

To remove those obstacles, the Colonization Department, under Mr. Gouin, took the initiative of creating colonization reserves, whither settlers could be attracted, where they could be grouped and more effective protection be given them. Thus since 1903, several townships containing good farming land have been placed at the disposal of the Minister of Colonization in various parts of the Province.

In 1904, the Crown Lands Act was amended so as to exempt settlers from the payment of stumpage dues on the timber they cut while clearing. Moreover, under the same act, when settlers need fire-wood, timber for houses, buildings on farms, they can obtain a permit authorizing them to cut timber on Crown Lands or even on lands under license.

The act of 1904 also enacted the classification of lands into lands suitable for cultivation and lands unsuitable for the same, a measure that had been called for as early as 1868. (See Appendix No. 9, Journals of the Legislative Assembly for 1868).

The result of all these modifications has been to stimulate and encourage the settlement of our public domain. Thus, the sale of lots are gradually increasing, as may be seen by the following statistics:

NUMBER OF LOTS CONCEDED ON LOCATION TICKETS FOR COLONIZATION PURPOSES

CONSERVATIVE REGIME

1892-93....	1293	lots
1893-94....	1738	"
1894-95....	1400	"
1895-96....	1684	"
1896-97....	1773	"
5 years....	7937	"
Yearly average....	1587	"

LIBERAL REGIME

1897-98.....	1860	"
1898-99.....	1814	"
1899-1900.....	1428	"
1900-01.....	1848	"
1901-02.....	1933	"
5 years.....	8878	"
Yearly average.....	1775	"
1902-1903.....	1412	"
1903-04.....	1692	"
1904-05.....	2014	"
1905-06.....	1913	"
1906-07.....	2201	"
5 years.....	9232	"
Yearly average.....	1846	"

RECAPITULATION

Five years of Conservative regime (1892-97)....	7937 lots
Five years of Liberal Regime, (1902-07).....	9232 "
Increase.....	1295 "
	16 per cent.

There has been a still more considerable increase in the number of letters-patent granted to holders of lots of less than 500 acres, after the fulfilment of the settlement conditions.

STATEMENT of letters-patent granted on sales of lots of less than 500 acres.

CONSERVATIVE REGIME

	Number of letters- patent.	Areas conceded.
1892-93..	587	65,454 acres
1893-94..	483	49,335 "

1894-95..	462	46,106	"
1895-96..	477	49,758	"
1896-97....	595	65,881	"
5 years.....	2,604	276,534	"
Yearly average....	520	55,307	"

LIBERAL REGIME

1897-98..	649	69,585	"
1898-99..	660	68,746	"
1899-1900..	747	68,068	"
1900-01..	850	89,929	"
1901-02..	1045	108,132	"
5 years.....	3951	404,460	"
Yearly average..	790	80,892	"
1902-03..	962	98,762	"
1903-04..	1095	103,346	"
1904-05....	1021	105,137	"
1905-06..	1376	138,896	"
1906-07....	1158	121,280	"
5 years.....	5112	567,421	"
Yearly average.	1122	113,484	"

RECAPITULATION

	Number of Letters Patent	
Five years of Conservative regime (1892-97).....	2604	
Five years of Liberal regime (1902-07)	5612	
Increase..	3008	(115 p.c.)
Five years of Conservative regime (1892-97).....	276,534	acres conceded
Five years of Liberal regime (1902-07).....	567,421	" "
Increase..	290,887	(105 p.c.)

Thus the number of letters-patent has more than doubled, while the number of location tickets has increased only by one-sixth. These statistics show that those who take lots, clear them.

With the development of settlement, the need of new roads made itself more and more felt. Therefore, the Government, last session, increased the grant for colonization roads from \$130,000.00 to \$175,000.00.

This is an increase of over one-third.

PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

INCREASED APPROPRIATIONS

The late Mr. Marchand promised to increase the grants to Public Instruction as soon as the state of the finances would permit. That promise has been nobly redeemed.

In 1896, the Government spent \$389,619.16 for all educational purposes, literary and scientific institutions, schools of arts and manufactures and night schools included (see p. 93).

In 1905, that expenditure was \$488,460.00.

Thus, notwithstanding the slender revenue, the appropriations for Public Instruction were increased by \$93,840.84, say 24 per cent.

On coming into power, in 1905, Mr. Gouin made education the foremost item of his programme.

In the very session of 1905, he had the vote for elementary schools increased by \$50,000.00.

During the two following sessions, those of 1906 and 1907, the vote for Public Instruction was again increased by over \$50,000.00.

During last session, the present Government had additional appropriations of nearly \$140,000.00 voted and the Prime Minister declared that he hoped to be able, before two years, to increase the vote for Public Instruction to one million.

The appropriations amount at present to about \$723,000.00. This means that they have been increased by about \$833.00, say, 85 per cent, since 1896; by about \$240,000.00, say 50 per cent, since 1905 and that they will be still further increased by \$275,000.00 before two years.

Have the Liberals kept their promises?

THE WORK DONE

We have in the Province over 6,000 elementary schools almost all of which are taught by female teachers. Now, until 1898, we had only one normal school for girls, the Laval Normal School.

That meant that the female teachers who had undergone professional training, were the exception.

The better to prepare teachers for their work, the Liberals took the initiative in having pedagogical lectures given to the teachers and in founding new normal schools. Thus, since 1897, they have founded five normal schools: one in Montreal in 1898; one at Rimouski in 1904; one at Chicoutimi in 1906; one at Three Rivers and one at Nicolet in 1907.

To stimulate the school commissioners' zeal and induce them to give better salaries to their school-masters and mistresses, the Gouin Government, in 1905, devoted an amount of \$10,000.00 to the payment of bonuses varying from \$60.00 to \$80.00 in each inspection division; and last session, it instituted honor prizes of \$100.00 and \$80.00 to be dis-

tributed to the municipalities that will pay their teachers the best salaries.

To encourage school-masters and mistresses to persevere in their career, the Gouin Government grants a yearly pension of \$25.00 to all who have taught for 20 years; of \$20.00 to those who have taught for 15 years, and of \$15.00 to those who have taught for 10 years.

The inspectors have also had to distribute bonuses to teachers whose pupils made the most progress during the school year. Those bonuses have had the effect of stimulating the teachers' zeal to such a remarkable degree that the Government resolved, last session, to give still more liberal bonuses so as to increase the good they do.

The Liberal also raised the salaries of the school inspectors and at present not one of those officials gets less than \$1,000.00 per annum.

The Liberals also aided poor municipalities in a very special manner. Thus, in 1906, these were granted only \$13,558.33. In 1907, they received \$44,614.00 and they will get more in future.

Since 1897 the Government has had over \$70,000.00 worth of school books and maps gratuitously distributed to schools.

For thirty years, the vote for public schools, that is, for primary schools, was \$160,000.00.

Last session it was increased by \$50,000.00.

Every year in future \$20,000.00 will be applied to the establishment of commercial academies in the country parts.

The grants to night schools have been increased. Those

grants, which were \$6,791.00 in 1896, now amount to \$12,000.00.

The schools of arts and manufactures receive larger subsidies. In 1896, the amount was \$10,000.00. It is now \$16,000.00.

Since 1897, the Government has encouraged the establishment and maintenance of house-keeping schools at Roberval, St. Paschal, St. François du Lac, St. Malo and Montreal, and of an agricultural orphanage at St. Damien de Buckland.

It has established dress-cutting and sewing schools in various parts of the Province and it spends \$8,000.00 per annum at present for the maintenance of those schools.

It has subsidized the foundation of a chair of surveying at Laval University, Quebec.

Since 1897, it has increased the grant to the Polytechnic School in Montreal from \$9,500.00 to \$18,000.00. It has increased the grants to the universities of the Province.

The Government has also granted a considerable increase to the agricultural school of Oka, to enable it to put its teaching on a higher footing and, under an agreement that has been entered into, that school will be affiliated with Laval University and be empowered to grant certificates or diplomas to students at the end of the course.

The Montreal Veterinary School has also been the object of the Government's attention and, thanks to the special grant given to it, it took possession, last September, of new premises including a lecture-room, a museum, and a laboratory which places it on an equal footing with other institutions of superior education.

In July, 1907, the Government also granted a subsidy of \$5,000.00 to the Montreal Technical Institute to enable it to open courses of technical and manual instruction in the city of Montreal in the following month of September.

In the session of 1907, three corporations were created which are to found three very important schools: a school for higher commercial studies in Montreal, and two technical schools, one in Quebec and one in Montreal. Not only has it granted franchises to those corporations, but it has likewise provided them with the means of existence. Those corporations are now being organized and we can assure the population of this Province who appreciate the importance of technical education and have been calling for it for a long time, that, before long, we shall have a technical school in each of our two principal cities: in the capital and in the metropolis. Those institutions will cost us dear; but we owe to our young men, without further delay, and without haggling, that fruitful teaching which will make their fortune and promote the prosperity of our Province.

To sum up:—The Liberal party, under the direction of its present leader, has done all it could possibly do to secure for our rural populations elementary instruction given by competent teachers, suitably remunerated, and in hygienic and comfortable buildings.

It has encouraged professional schools of all kinds and created new ones where there were none.

It has encouraged professional agricultural schools, professional commercial schools, schools of arts and trades, universities and polytechnic schools.

It has created technical schools, and a school of higher commercial studies which will be for our workmen, our manufacturers, our merchants and traders, what our universities are for advocates, physicians and notaries.

Thanks to the active initiative it has taken in all those directions, the Province of Quebec will in future be properly fitted out to sustain the peaceful contest of material interests, to attain agricultural, industrial and economic progress to the same degree as the populations which hitherto had gained a humiliating advance over it.

And the electors, we trust, will remember what they owe to Mr. Gouin, to his Government, to the Liberal party.

FOR WORKMEN

The Liberals, as we have said, have given considerable subsidies to night schools, schools of arts and manufactures, as well as for the foundation of technical schools. Now, it is the workingmen who will derive the greatest benefit from such liberality.

But they have done still more for the working classes.

They have established the Board of Factory Inspectors we now have and which is said by competent authorities on the subject, to be the best organized one in America.

They have established Councils of Conciliation and Arbitration for the settlement of disputes between capital and labor.

They have made the use of special apparatus for the prevention of accidents compulsory.

They have organized a board of examiners to ascertain the qualifications, of engineers and of inspectors of steam boilers.

They have amended the laws so as to place all public buildings under the supervision of the factory inspectors.

They have amended the law respecting factories and

public buildings so as to protect health and secure the comfort of those who work in them.

They have regulated the conditions under which women and children can be called upon to work in factories.

In 1907, they had it enacted that no child under 14 years of age shall be employed in factories.

In 1907, they had it enacted that girls and boys under 16 shall not be employed in factories unless they can read or write or unless they attend a night school.

They have had it enacted that the benefits to which members of mutual benefit societies are entitled are not liable to seizure.

In 1906, the Gouin Government had an act passed authorizing the formation of co-operative syndicates.

In 1906, the Gouin Government had a severe measure against usury.

In 1907, the Government also appointed a Commission to solve the question of accidents to workmen. That Commission is at present carrying on its investigation and will report before the opening of next session.

In 1908 the Gouin Government made the inspection of scaffoldings used by builders compulsory.

In 1908, the Gouin Government got the House to adopt a resolution to secure fair wages for workmen employed on public contracts or works subsidized by the State.

Such are some of the measures which the Government has had adopted since 1897 in favor of the working classes.

Did the Conservatives, who were in power in Quebec for

twenty-five years, ever do the one-hundredth part of what the Liberals have done in ten years?

The feelings of the Conservatives towards the working men are well known. They make use of them, but they never do anything for them. Far from it, they deny them equal rights, as Mr. LeBlanc did last session in connection with the case of Wilfrid Paquette.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE PUBLIC DOMAIN

RE-ORGANIZATION OF THE CROWN LANDS DEPARTMENT

The task of developing the resources of our public domain is one of the most arduous and extensive. The Gouin Government deemed it prudent to divide the former duties of the Crown Lands Department, and it did so in the session of 1905.

The Mines Branch, the Fisheries and Game Branch, and that of the Cadastre were detached from the Crown Lands Department, and added to that of Colonization under the direction of a new Minister, and the Minister of Crown Lands was thus enabled to devote his whole attention to Lands and Forests.

The Province gained by this re-distribution and the revenues from our public domain increased in an unheard of manner.

FISHERIES AND GAME

We have already said that the revenues from our public domain had increased by \$479,025.55, say 54 per cent, in the past ten years.

We will now examine the increase in the revenue from our fishing and hunting territories.

CONSERVATIVE REGIME

1892-93.....	\$17,557 31
1893-94.....	19,089 01
1894-95.....	20,364 18
1895-96.....	20,828 05
1896-97.....	24,574 80

5 years.....	\$102,408 35
Yearly average..	\$ 20,481 67

LIBERAL REGIME

1897-98.....	\$ 35,152 90
1898-99.....	40,943 67
1899-1900.....	49,322 24
1900-01.....	56,266 53
1901-02.....	57,904 31

5 years.....	\$289,589 65
Yearly average.....	\$ 47,917 93

1902-03.....	\$ 63,119 93
1903-04.....	65,515 55
1904-05.....	66,030 27
1905-06.....	69,099 92
1906-07.....	87,416 57

5 years.....	\$351,182 24
Yearly average.....	70,236 44

RECAPITULATION

5 years of Conservative regime (1892-97).....	\$102,408 35
5 years of Liberal regime (1902-07).....	351,182 24

Increase.....	\$248,773 89 (242 p.c)
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MINES

This source of revenue shows a still more striking increase, as may be seen by the following table :

CONSERVATIVE REGIME

1892-93.....	\$ 6,210 75
1893-94.....	2,636 00
1894-95.....	6,121 14
1895-96.....	3,197 25
1896-97.....	1,821 00
5 years.....	\$19,195 14
Yearly average.....	\$ 3,999 02

LIBERAL REGIME

1897-98.....	\$ 7,872 67
1898-99.....	4,125 92
1899-1900.....	11,961 48
1900-01.....	6,000 79
1901-02.....	20,188 18
5 years.....	\$50,098 99
Yearly average.....	\$10,019 79

1902-03.....	\$ 12,038 10
1903-04.....	1,764 75
1904-05.....	1,408 00
1905-06.....	43,536 10
1906-07.....	70,399 84

5 years..	\$129,146 79
Yearly average ..	\$ 25,829 35

RECAPITULATION

5 years of Conservative regime (1892-97).....	\$ 3,999 02
5 years of Liberal regime (1902-07)	25,829 35
Increase.....	\$21,830 33
	(over 500 p.c.)

1904-05.....	\$ 1,408 00
1906-07.....	70,899 84

Increase in two years.. \$68,991 84

The Government is reproached with having of late years conceded our mining lands for a mere song.

But one must not be deceived by speeches made by Conservatives or Nationalists who designedly confound prospecting licenses with concessions.

From the 1st July, 1904, to the 30th June, 1907, only 3,904½ acres of mining lands were conceded and this at the price fixed by the mining law and regulations.

WOODS AND FORESTS

Our forests are one of our best sources of revenue. Let us see how the Liberals have made use of them for the benefit of the Province.

The following table gives the receipts the Government obtained from our Woods and Forests in 1897 and in 1907.

	1896-97	1906-07	Increase.
Total revenue.....	\$ 782,303.53	\$ 1,018,385.40	\$236,081.87 (30%)
Total revenue (exclusive of timber limits sales)..	778,277.78	1,018,385.40	240,107.62 (30%)
Timber limit sales.....	4,025.75		
Timber dues.....	607,865.33	773,130.29	165,264.96 (27%)
Transfer fees.....	3,522.50	15,911.50	12,389.00 (351%)
Ground rents.....	155,572.54	214,452.00	58,879.46 (37%)
Interest, penalties and fire-tax.....	11,317.41	14,891.61	3,574.20 (24%)

SALE OF LIMITS

The Conservatives reproach the Liberals with having sold too many timber limits and with having sold them at too low prices.

But why not sell them? Why allow the harvest of our forest to be lost? Why allow the wealth of our forest domain to remain unproductive?

Did not Mr. Nantel, Minister of Crown Lands, write on the 14th of May, 1897, in authorizing the sale of 4,000 square miles of limits, as follows :

" I consider this sale necessary : 1. *To meet the provisions of the estimates* ; 2. Because the territory is asked for by the trade ; because the limits are exposed to fire and it is a prudent policy to have them protected at the same time by the Government and by the grantees?

(Sessional Paper, No. 91. Session of 1907.)..

Now, were not the Liberals as prudent in having almost inaccessible limits protected by the grantees?

Will it be claimed that the demands of the trade were not as pressing as in 1897?

The following table giving information which Mr. Turgeon had collected last summer, shows very clearly the practical consequences of the sales since 1897, in the Eastern section of the Province and the good that has resulted from them :

STATEMENT showing the area of the lands leased since 1897 under timber licenses in the eastern section of the Province; the names of the persons or companies working the same and the number of men employed for the purpose.

Number of men employed.	NAMES.	Agency.	Number of miles sold.	Capital invested.
400	The Belgo Canadian Pulp & Paper Co.....	St. Maurice..	1,023	\$ 500,000
300	Richard Turner.....	St. Charles...	155	250,000
100	Jacques-Cartier Lumber Co.....	" ...	277	300,000
880	Chicoutimi Pulp Co....	L. St. John..	441	1,950,000
350	Jonquières Pulp Co....	" ...	23	500,000
500	Oyamel Company.....	" ...	1161	800,000
75	Ouitchouan Pulp Co...	" ...	130	300,000
500	Murray Bay Lumber Co	Saguenay....	391	800,000
300	Saguenay Lumber Co...	"	101	225,000
250	C. P. Easton & Co.....	"	484	400,000
250	Iberville Lumber Co....	"	53	350,000
250	Pentecost Lumber Co...	"	330	375,000
150	Manicouagan & English Bay Export Co.....	"	280	115,000
700	North Shore Power Ry. & Nav. Company....	"	616	2,250,000
100	R. Scougal.....	Gaspé.....	60	60,000
100	Gaspé Lumber Co.....	"	14	100,000
150	Sherbrooke Lumber Co.	"	355	225,000
600	Dominion Lumber Co. (Chs. Millener).....	"	331	1,000,000
150	York Lumber Co.....	"	280	350,000

Number of men employed.	NAMES.	Agency.	Number of miles sold.	Capital invested.
150	Cascapedia Manufact. & Trading Company, River Bonaventure, W. C. Edwards.....	Bonaventure.	1,061	800,000
60	W. K. McKean.....	"	194	100,000
300	Chaleurs Bay Mills.....	"	36	150,000
800	John Fenderson & Co...	Matapedia...	26	500,000
200	Shives Lumber Co.....	"	158	150,000
100	N. Piché & Sons.....	"	60½	45,000
30	F. Soucy.....	Grandville.....		40,000
125	Olivier Guérette.....	"	13	40,000
225	Battle Island Paper Co.	Saguenay....	171	175,000
225	Calhoun Lumber Co....	Gaspé.....	117	200,000
245	Maurice Quinn.....	St. Charles...	214	52,800
50	Quebec & St. Maurice Industrial Co.....	St. Maurice..	2,465	650,000
	C. W. Mullen <i>et al.</i>	Gaspé.....	461	500,000
8585			11,490½	\$14,252,800

Have the Liberal Governments sacrificed our forests?

The sale of December, 1892, brought in \$14.28 per mile; that of June, 1894, \$7.14, and that of February, 1895, \$11.46 per square mile, on an average. Now, the last sale by the Liberals, in 1906, brought in \$195.03. Will it be claimed that the Liberals did not sell at a more remunerative price? Pulpwood is now sold at \$6.00 a cord, says Mr. LeBlanc, while it was worth \$1.50 previous to 1897. Supposing that these data are accurate, supposing that the increase in the price of labor has nothing to do with this increase in the price of pulpwood, it is none the less true that,

in 1906, the Liberals obtained for limits a price 12 times, 27 times and 17 times higher than those obtained in 1892, 1894 and 1895.

But the Conservatives do not like us to compare the prices obtained under their regime with those obtained under the Liberal regime; they prefer to make comparisons between those obtained here and those obtained in Ontario; and, in order that the comparison may be still more lame, they are even careful not to compare, in the presence of our friends, the prices obtained in the sister province under licenses for cutting pulpwood. Now, does anybody know the price of the license for cutting pulpwood in Ontario?

As we have shown, the average price of sale in June, 1906, was \$195.03. Now, in May, 1906, the Ontario Government adjudged to Mr. J. R. Booth the right to cut pulpwood during 21 years over 1,700 square miles for the price of \$300,000.00, namely \$176.47 per square mile.

The Quebec Government is thus not so great a squanderer as it is sought to make it out to be.

PULP.

The Conservatives have another reproach: The Quebec Government allows the Americans to carry off all our pulpwood. In the first place, is it quite true that the Americans import a large quantity of pulpwood cut on the public domain?

According to the most reliable statistics, the total exports from the Province of Quebec to the United States, last year, were 850,000 cords, whereof only 108,000 cords were cut on the Crown Domain. Seven-eighths of the pulpwood shipped to the United States is, therefore, cut on seigniories and on patented lots.

They would like the Quebec Government to prohibit the exportation of pulpwood. But such a step on the part of the provincial authorities could stop only the exporting of wood cut on the public domain, that is to say, the exporting of one-eighth only of the wood the Americans buy in this Province. The provincial authorities are powerless to solve the problem. The Federal Government alone can adopt legislation affecting all the wood cut in this Province. Mr. Bourassa acknowledged it before the Colonization Commission, and Mr. Pelletier himself admitted it when at the Borden-Monk banquet given in Quebec in October, 1908, he said :

"In Ontario and Quebec we have our immense forest resources. Such is the patrimony God has given us. Now, we export our pulp-wood to the United States where we sell it for a trifle. The United States manufacture it into pulp and sell it back to us, keeping the profits to themselves. We play the part of dupes.

"Statesmen like these (Messrs. Borden and Monk) who will shortly lead us to victory will, I have no doubt, find a remedy for such a state of things." (L'Evenement, 20th October, 1908..)

Would such a prohibition, which is claimed from the Quebec Government, have, as it is said, the effect of compelling American manufacturers to transfer their mills to our Province?

It is doubtful.

Last year the total consumption of pulp-wood in the United States was 8,000,000 cords. Now, the prohibition which the Quebec Government would enact, would stop the exporting of 108,000 cords only, say three percent of the quantity consumed in the United States. Is it reasonable to suppose that such a prohibition could force the Americans to transfer their mills here?

SUMMARY OF THE WORK DONE SINCE 1897

1. *Excess of liabilities over assets.*

On the 26th May, 1897.....	\$24,123,302 64
On the 8th April, 1908.....	<u>23,973,927 68</u>

Decrease.....	\$ 149,374 96
To this should be added the increase in the Funder Debt through the conversion.....	<u>\$ 1,117,875 42</u>

Total decrease.....	\$ 1,267,250 38
And notwithstanding that the Government has paid :	

For re-payment of guarantee deposits.....	\$ 370,174 35
For railway subsidies.....	1,109,809 64
For extraordinary public works.....	<u>520,214 84</u>

Total.....	\$ 2,000,198 83
------------	-----------------

2. *Funded Debt.*

On the 26th May, 1897.....	\$34,225,747 42
In the 8th April, 1908.....	<u>28,604,053 48</u>

Decrease.....	\$ 5,621,693 94
And this notwithstanding the increase through the conversion.....	<u>1,117,875 42</u>

Total decrease.....	\$ 6,739,569 36
---------------------	-----------------

3. *Loans since 26th May, 1897.*

One temporary one (30th June, 1897) of \$700,000.00 since repaid.

4. *Excess of total receipts over total expenditure (exclusive of loans and railway subsidies).*

From 1st July 1897 to 30th June, 1907.....	\$608,766 61
Yearly average.....	<u>60,876 66</u>

5. *Total receipts (exclusive of loans.)*

1896-97.....	\$3,923,238 70
1906-07.....	<u>5,326,007 59</u>

Increase.....	..\$1,402,768 89
say 35 per cent.	

6. Total expenditure (exclusive of loans and railway Subsidies.)

1896-97.....	\$ 5,288,469 88
1906-07.....	4,798,044 89

Decrease.....	\$ 495,424 44
	say 9 per cent.

7. Surplus or deficit of total receipts over expenditure. (exclusive of loans and railway subsidies.)

1896-97, Deficit.....	\$1,365,230 63
1906-07, Surplus.....	532,962 70

Difference.....	\$1,898,193 83
-----------------	----------------

8. Excess of ordinary revenue over ordinary expenditure.

From 1st July 1892 to 30th June 1907.....	\$1,299,040 09
Yearly average.....	129,904 00

9. Ordinary Revenue.

1896-97.....	\$ 3,874,966 22
1906-07.....	5,270,594 74

Increase.....	\$ 1,395,628 52
	(say 36 per cent)

10. Ordinary Expenditure.

1896-97.....	\$ 4,685,450 42
1906-07.....	4,691,250 42

Increase.....	\$ 5,800 00
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11. Surplus or deficit of ordinary revenue over ordinary expenditure

1896-97—Deficit.....	\$ 810,484 20
1906-07—Surplus.....	579,344 42

Difference.....	\$ 1,389,828 52
-----------------	-----------------

12. Revenue from Public Domain.

1896-97.....	\$ 879,893 26
1906-07.....	1,358,918 81

Increase.....	\$ 479,025 55
	say 54 per cent.

13. Federal Subsidy under act of 1867.

1896-97.....	\$ 959,252 80
1907-08.....	1,559,118 40

Increase.....	..\$ 599,865 60
	say 62 per cent.

14. Appropriations for Agriculture.

From 1892 to 1897.....	\$ 872,165 67
1902 to 1907.....	1,263,649 92

Increase.....	..\$ 391,484 25
Yearly average.....	..\$ 78,296 85
	(say 44 per cent)

15. Appropriations for Colonization Roads.

From 1892 to 1897.....	\$536,448 00
From 1902 to 1907.....	645,000 00

Increase.....	..\$108,552 00
Yearly average.....	..\$ 21,710 00
	(say 20 per cent.)

16. Appropriations for Education.

1896.....	..\$389,619 16
1905.....	483,460 00

Increase.....	..\$ 93,840 84
	(say 24 per cent)

1896.....	..\$389,619 16
1908 (estimate) about.....	723,000 00

Increase.....	..\$333,380 84
	(say 85 per cent)

1905.....	..\$483,460 00
1908 (estimate) about.....	723,000 00

Increase.....	..\$239,540 00
	(say, nearly 50 per cent.)

Such is, summarily, what the Liberals have done with the public moneys since 1897.

If we go into details, we find the following works and reforms :

In 1898, the extending of the territory of the Province through the delimitation of its boundaries ;

In 1907, the re-adjustment of the Federal subsidy ;

Revision of the School laws ;

Revision of the Health laws ;

Revision of the Cities and Towns' Act ;

Revision of the Railway Act ;

Revision of the Companies' Act ;

Revision of the Election Act ;

Revision of the Mining law ;

Revision of the Game and Fishery laws ;

Passing of an act respecting electric railways ;

Revision of the Statutes ;

An act to provide for the revision of the Municipal Code ;

Revision and amendment of the Insurance Act so as to secure greater guarantees for the public ;

An act to authorize life insurance in favor of educational establishments ;

Appointment of a Commission to inquire into matters pertaining to Colonization ;

Classification of public lands into lands fit for cultivation and lands unfit for the same.

Creation of colonization reserves ;

Creation of forest reserves ;

Increased grants for colonization roads ;

Re-organization of the system for the protection of our forests against fire ;

Sending two young students to the Yale Forestry School to follow the course on silviculture ;

Establishment of a nursery for re-forestation and for the acclimatization of foreign trees ;

Division of the former branches of the Crown Lands Department ;

Special encouragement given to the dairy industry and,

in particular, the installation of cold storage in butter and cheese factories ;

Adoption of new measures concerning the inspection of butter and cheese factories ;

An act authorizing the formation of breeders' syndicates ;

Increased grants to agricultural societies ;

Special aid for obtaining good roads ;

Encouragement for construction of iron bridges ;

An act for the suppression of usury ;

An act respecting the observance of Sunday ;

An act to prohibit the sale of intoxicating liquors during municipal elections ;

Amendment of the License Law to protect our population against the plague of alcoholism ;

New laws respecting the inspection of factories, scaffoldings and public buildings, (schools, theatres, etc.)

An act respecting the labor of prisoners and providing for the distribution of the revenue from such labor to the prisoners' families ;

An act to authorize the establishment of co-operative syndicates ;

An act respecting the granting of certain privileges, rights and franchises by municipalities ;

Re-adjustment of the tax on successions so as to relieve small inheritances ;

Exemption from succession duties in favor of charitable and educational institutions ;

Appointment of an agent in London ;

Numerous judicial reforms ;

Increase in the number of judges to make the administration of justice more expeditious ;

Restriction of the appeal to the Privy Council and to the Court of Appeal, to make law-suits less expensive ;

Increase of the indemnity to jurors ;

Establishment of a court of sessions of the peace ;

Additional grants to schools of all kinds and more especially to primary schools, the people's schools;

Establishment of technical schools;

Establishment of a school of higher commercial studies;

Foundation of new normal schools;

New grants for commercial academies in the country;

New bonuses to teachers and to school boards;

Increase of school inspectors' salaries.

Such, taken at random, are some of the reforms accomplished by the Liberals, by the Gouin Government especially.

It now rests with the electors to say whether they prefer to return to the regime of 1892-97.

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